Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XVII

Black Butler
XVII

Contents

Chapter 78

In the morning ... 3

The Butler, Giving Chase

Chapter 79

At noon 35

The Butler, Final Match

Chapter 80

In the afternoon .. 65

The Butler, Bowling Well

Chapter 81

At night 103

The Butler, Under Lock and Key

Chapter 82

At midnight 141

The Butler, Having a Laugh

Chapter 78

In the morning : The Butler, Giving Chase

Black Butler

THE HEADMASTER HAS TOTAL CONTROL OVER THIS SCHOOL. IF WE CAN TALK TO HIM, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET SOME KIND OF LEAD ON WHAT'S BECOME OF DERRICK AND THE OTHERS!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
YOU HEAR ME, SEBAS-TIAN!?
HYAH!
BAGA (WHACK)
OUT!
WAAAA (CHEER)
HUH!?
UH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUE...?
THE MUSIC'S STOPPED... WHERE DID MISTER MICHAELIS GO!?
TO USE THE FACILITIES?
AGAIN!!?

WICKETS 3
BLUE 60
TEN OUTS. SWITCH OFF!
WE'RE ON OUR OWN NOW, SO IT'S UP TO US TO FIGHT IT OUT.
INDEED ...
I JUST KNEW WE WOULDN'T GET FAR WITHOUT OUR CHEERING SECTION ...
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DASH
!?
HE IS NOT HERE!?
SA (SWF)

WHEN DID HE GET ALL THE WAY OVER THERE!?
!!
WHERE COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE—
DA
DA
DA
DA
I CAN'T SAY I'M EXACTLY THRILLED ABOUT THIS, BUT...
...IT'S LOOKING LIKE THAT STRATEGY IS OUR ONLY OPTION.
OOOG (CLAMOUR)
YES, SIR!!
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS EVENING OUT THE SCORE!!
ALL RIGHT, YOU CHAPS! TIME TO BAT!!

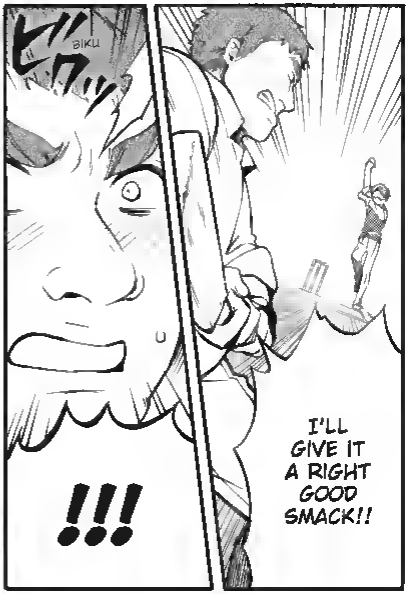
!?
BIKU (JUMP?)
BA (WHIP?)
GUNG CORONG
DAMN ...!!
I HIT IT HIGH UP IN THE AIR!?
HAH!
BI (WHIP?)
BIKU
!?
HMPH! WHAT A WEAK BALL.

WHOA!!
PASHI (WHAP)
ぱしっ
TON (BOUNCE)
I'VE GOT IT...
WAH!

SORRY...
HOW COULD YOU LET THAT PATHETIC BALL GET THE BETTER OF YOU!?
WAAA
アア

WA (CHEER)
DIDN'T IT SEEM A LITTLE LIKE THE BATSMAN FROZE FOR A SECOND?
BLUE HOUSE GOT AN OUT.
TALK ABOUT LUCKY!

FUNYA (WOBBLE)
GAKON
ガコン
URGH!
FUNYA
フニャ
PASHI
しっ


BIKU
!!!
I'LL GIVE IT A RIGHT GOOD SMACK!!

NOT AGAIN !?
!?

HEH!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER WITH YOU LOT!?
ERM... WELL... SORRY.
—WHAT?
YES.
I AM CERTAIN THEIR SUPPORT WILL PROVE TO BE AN ASSET TO THE TEAM.
YOU WANT ME TO INVITE LAU ON THE FOURTH OF JUNE?

GONYO (WHISPER)
GONYO
GONYO
AN ASSET?
NIKO (SMILE)
WELL...
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'LL BE AS EFFECTIVE AS ALL THAT...
I WOULD NOT CALL IT REFINED, BUT...
...IT SHOULD WORK LIKE A CHARM AGAINST THE OTHER TEAM, ISOLATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS THEY ARE.
BUT IT MAY YET BE TOO MATURE A PLOY FOR YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
HEH.
WHA—!?
NO (BLUSH)

IS EVERY-ONE TENSE 'COS THIS IS THE CHAMPI-ONSHIP MATCH?
KI (GLARE)
LET'S DO THIS!
I HAVE TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE HERE AS THE PRE-FECT'S FAG.
BI (WHIP)

HA (GASP)

THIS BALL'S NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME!!

WHY DID THE OTHER FELLOWS MISHIT ...?
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIS BOWLING.

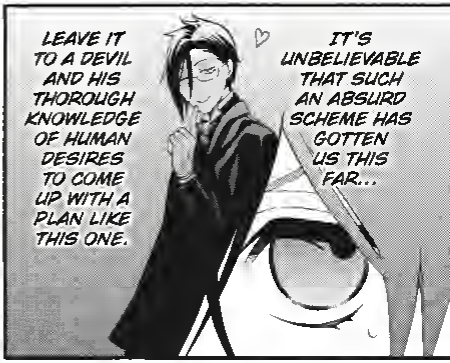
KUH ...!
GA (WHACK)
POTEN (PLOP)
!?
DAMN ...!
BOO!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO GREEN HOUSE!?
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE RELAXING 'COS THEY'RE UP AGAINST BLUE HOUSE!!
BOO!
I-I'M SORRY!!
NOT YOU TOO! THAT WAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!!
WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON!?

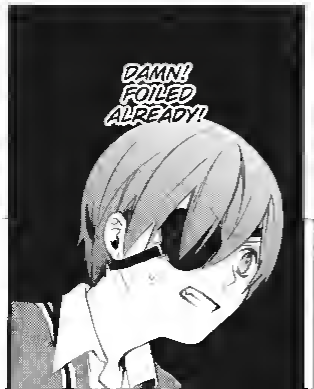
DON (BAM)
WHAT IS THAT BRAZEN HAREM OF WOMEN DOING HERE!?
?
F-FOR LADIES TO EXPOSE SO MUCH LEG... TH-TH-TH-TH-TH-THEY SHOULD BE ASHAMED!!!
DID THEY DISTRACT EVERYONE!?
BA (WHAP)
BI (WHIP)
NO! I HAVE TO CONCEN-TRATE!!
NGAH!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO MY BROTHER...?
OH NOOO! YOUNG MASTER EDWARD HAS BEEN...
WAAA (CHEER)
アア...
WHAT A REMARKABLY POTENT STRATEGY!
BUT...
»THE OTHER STUDENTS OF BLUE HOUSE POSSESS POOR EYESIGHT AND HAVE FAILED TO NOTICE THE TRUE NATURE OF THEIR SUCCESS.
OUT!
(USHAA (SLIDE)
ズシャアッ
ガコ (CRACK)
ヨッ
WAH!!
...I WONDER HOW SUCCESSFUL IT WILL BE AGAINST THAT GREENHILL...
LET'S GO!
(WHOOOSH)
オオオ...

IT PROVED MOST EFFEC- TIVE ON HIM...
NWAH!
BIKU (JOLT)
BA (BAM)
SUKA (SWIPE)
OUT!
POKO (PLONK)

IF WE CAN HOLD THEM TO NO RUNS THIS WAY—
I AM TELLING YOU TO LEAVE.


LEAVE IT TO A DEVIL AND HIS THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN DESIRES TO COME UP WITH A PLAN LIKE THIS ONE.
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT SUCH AN ABSURD SCHEME HAS GOTTEN US THIS FAR...


DAMN! FOILED ALREADY!

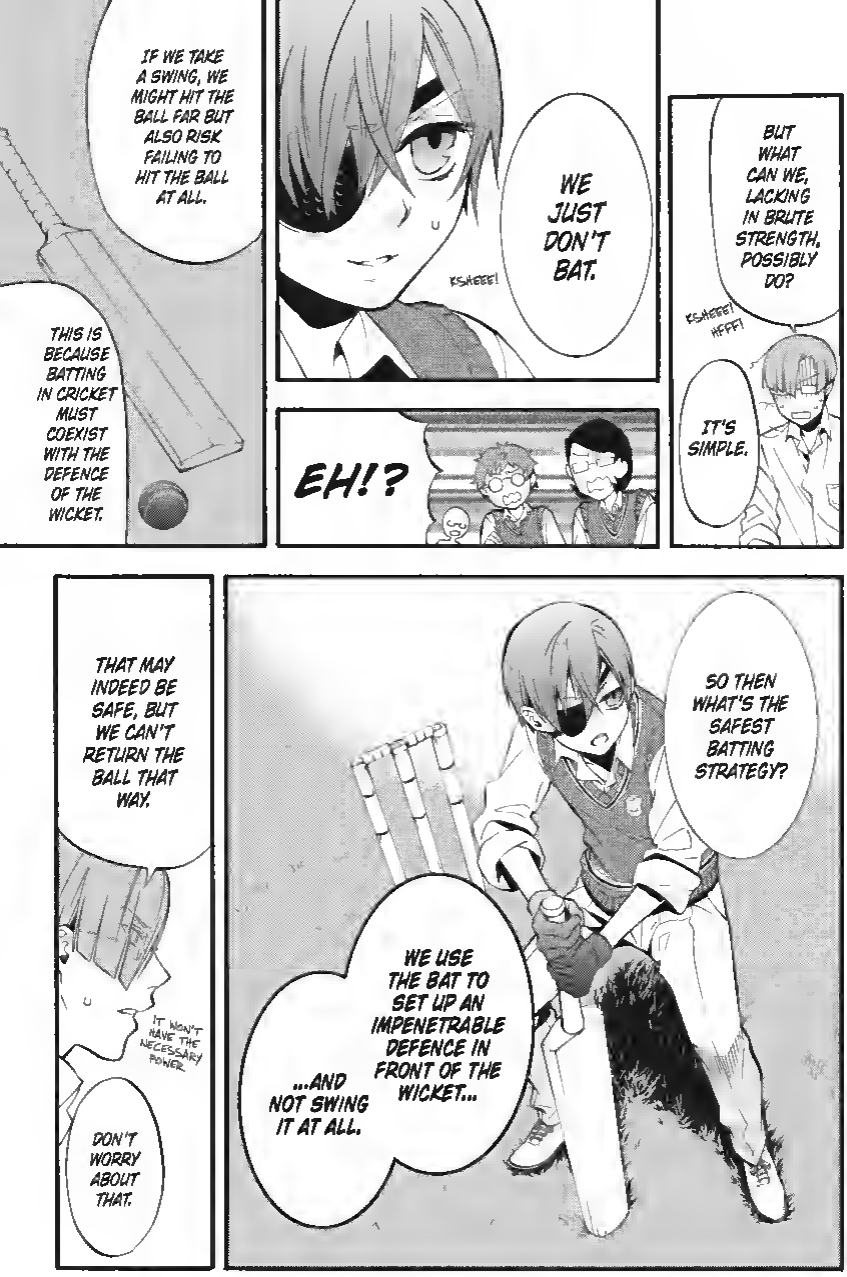
YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CRICKET MATCH IN SUCH INDECENT ATTIRE!!
OHHH, I ENGLISH NO GOOD UNDER- STAND!
!!

TATTLETALE
STILL, HOW CAN THEY ALL TURN INTO MOONING IDIOTS OVER A BUNCH OF WOMEN!?
WHAT THOSE COWARDS HAVE RUNNING THROUGH THEIR THICK SKULLS IS ONLY TOO OBVIOUS!
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
AAAH
AHHH..
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE GREEN HOUSE RAISED THE CRY ABOUT IT...
SO WHO WAS IT?
HMPH!
TEN OVERS! SWITCH!
WE'VE BARELY AVOIDED GETTING THE TABLES TURNED ON US.
BUT THEY'RE CATCHING UP FASTER THAN WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
WE HAVE TO SCORE MORE RUNS IN THE NEXT INNINGS OR ELSE...
60
52
DA (DASH)
DA
DA
DA

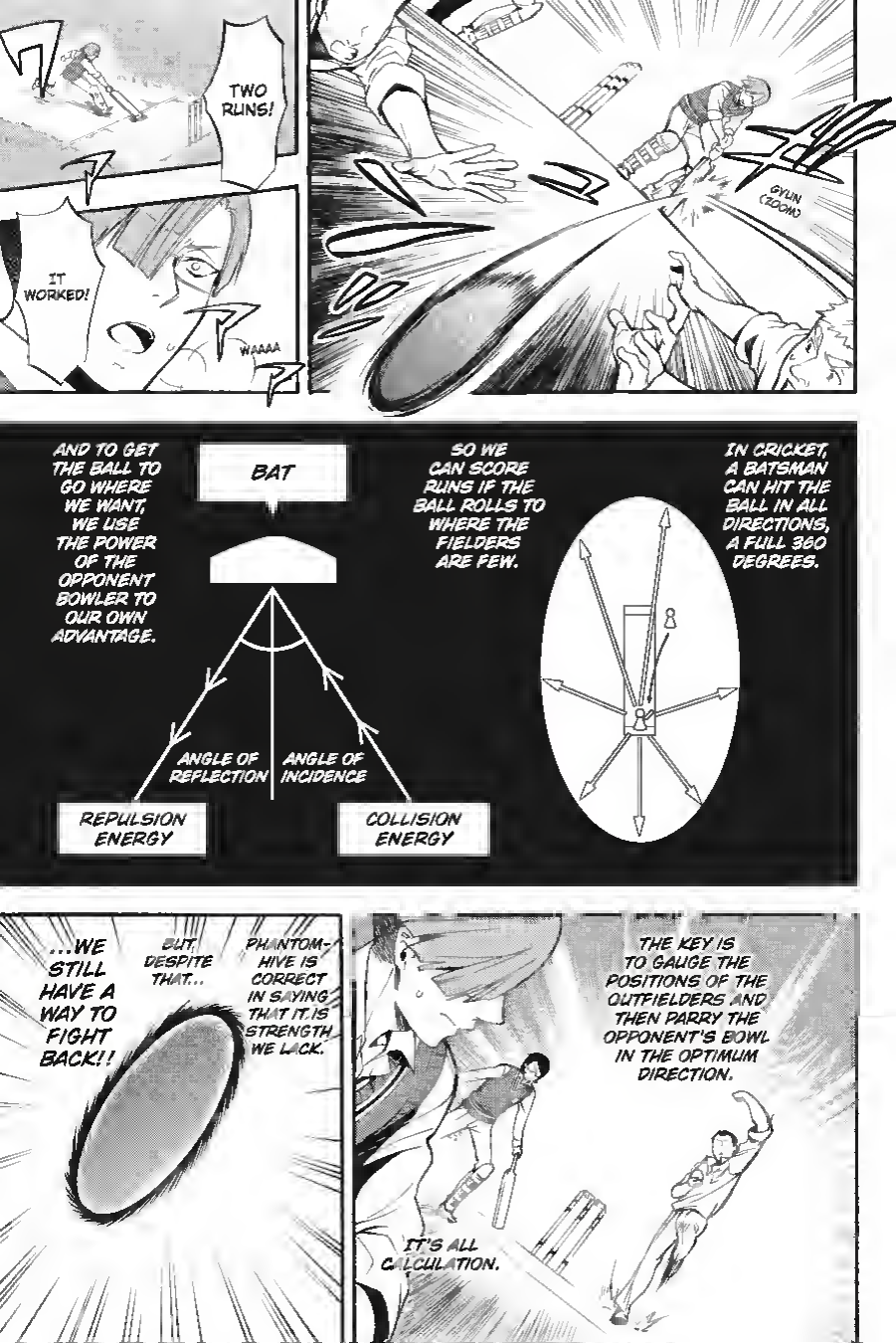
ZA (STRIDE)
HE DISAP-PEARED AGAIN!?
HA (GASP)
HE IS ALL THE WAY OVER THERE ALREADY !?
HA (FWIP)
DA
DA
DA
DA (DASH)

ZA (CRUNCH)
IT'S THE FIRST HALF OF THE SECOND INNINGS!! WE'LL KEEP OUR LOSSES TO A MINIMUM!!
YES, SIIIIR!!
SU (SWF)
ZAWA (MURMUR)
!?
WHAT KIND OF FORM IS THAT!?
HE'S HOLDING HIS BAT WITH A REVERSE GRIP!?
YOU THERE! HOLD YOUR BAT PROPERLY!
UMPIRE
NO, THIS WILL DO.

THAT SHOULD DO IT FOR ORCHESTRAL BATTING PRACTICE.
HAAH, HAAH...
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ITEM ON OUR TRAINING MENU.
Plan A
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY GIVEN STRATEGY WILL GO OFF JUST THE WAY WE WANT IT TO.
IN CASE WE FIND OURSELVES IN UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER PLAN AT THE READY, ONE WE CAN CARRY OUT ON OUR OWN.
YOU MEAN TO SAY THERE'S MORE!?
HFFF!
KSHEEE!
OF COURSE!


IF WE TAKE A SWING, WE MIGHT HIT THE BALL FAR BUT ALSO RISK FAILING TO HIT THE BALL AT ALL.
THIS IS BECAUSE BATTING IN CRICKET MUST COEXIST WITH THE DEFENCE OF THE WICKET.
WE JUST DON'T BAT.
KSHEEE!
EH!?
BUT WHAT CAN WE, LACKING IN BRUTE STRENGTH, POSSIBLY DO?
KSHEEE! HFFF!
IT'S SIMPLE.
SO THEN WHAT'S THE SAFEST BATTING STRATEGY?
WE USE THE BAT TO SET UP AN IMPENETRABLE DEFENCE IN FRONT OF THE WICKET...
...AND NOT SWING IT AT ALL.
THAT MAY INDEED BE SAFE, BUT WE CAN'T RETURN THE BALL THAT WAY.
IT WON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY POWER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

WAAA (CHEER)
WE'RE UP AGAINST THE STRONG-ARMED BOWLERS OF GREEN HOUSE!
!?
IT'LL HAVE PLENTY OF POWER.
BI (WHIP)
KURI (TWIST)
GAKO (KACRACK)


TWO RUNS!
IT WORKED!
WAAAA
GYUN (ZOOM)
AND TO GET THE BALL TO GO WHERE WE WANT, WE USE THE POWER OF THE OPPONENT BOWLER TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE.
BAT
ANGLE OF REFLECTION
ANGLE OF INCIDENCE
REPULSION ENERGY
COLLISION ENERGY
SO WE CAN SCORE RUNS IF THE BALL ROLLS TO WHERE THE FIELDERS ARE FEW.
IN CRICKET, A BATSMAN CAN HIT THE BALL IN ALL DIRECTIONS, A FULL 360 DEGREES.
...WE STILL HAVE A WAY TO FIGHT BACK!!
BUT, DESPITE THAT...
PHANTOM-HIVE IS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT IT IS STRENGTH WE LACK.
THE KEY IS TO GAUGE THE POSITIONS OF THE OUTFIELDERS AND THEN PARRY THE OPPONENT'S BOWL IN THE OPTIMUM DIRECTION.
IT'S ALL CALCULATION.

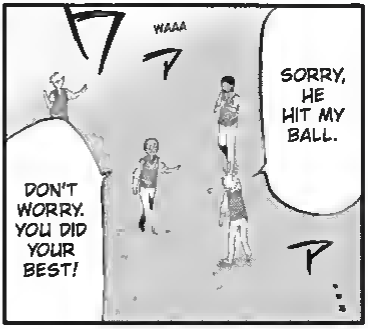
DOGOON (BAAAANG)
THE SWORD IN THE STONE!

GAKO (WHACK)
GA (WHACK)
WAAA (CHEER)
THREE RUNS!
TWO RUNS!

TEN OVERS. SWITCH!
WE DID MANAGE TO SCORE, BUT THIS PALTRY LEAD IS NOTHING TO GREEN HOUSE...
FOR THIS STRATEGY, I'D SAY THE RESULT WAS PLENTY EFFECTIVE.
...AS LONG AS BLUEWER AND I HAVE OUR TACTICS.
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE INNINGS TO GO, AND GREEN HOUSE IS AT BAT!
CAN WE REALLY PULL OUT THE WIN WITH WHAT POINTS WE HAVE!?
WE CAN CURB THEIR RUNS...
WAAAA
BUT IT WILL WORK ONLY ONCE...
...SO EVERYONE, PLEASE FIND A WAY TO STAND YOUR GROUND UNTIL THEN!
WE WILL!!

A BOUNDARY FOR GREEN HOUSE FOR FOUR!
WAAAA (CHEER)
GAKIIN (CRAACK)

105
GREEN
91


WAAA
SORRY, HE HIT MY BALL.
DON'T WORRY. YOU DID YOUR BEST!

YOU'VE SAVED ME FOR THIS MOMENT ALL ALONG!
I MOST CERTAINLY SHAN'T MAKE YOU REGRET IT!

NEXT BOWLER UP... WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, PHANTOM-HIVE!
RIGHT!!

AFTER EIGHT OVERS, THEY'RE AT SIX OUTS...
THEY'VE CLOSED THE GAP QUITE A BIT.
AAA
YES. WE'VE GOT TO HANG ONTO OUR LEAD IN THE LAST TWO OVERS NO MATTER WHAT.

OH! CIEL'S BOWLING!
YOUNG MASTER, GIVE IT YOUR BEEEST!
ZAWA (BUZZ)
ZA (STAND)
ARE THEY HAVIN' US ON, LETTIN' THAT RUNT BOWL IN THIS BIG MATCH ...?
ZAWA
WH-WHAT'RE THEY UP TO?
ZA (STRIDE)
ZA
ZA
BA (WHAP)
KOKU (NOD)

ZURA (CROWD)
NEARLY ALL OF THE OUTFIELDERS ARE POSITIONED AROUND THE BATSMAN!?
HOW DO THEY PLAN ON DEFENDING LIKE THAT!?
GREEN HOUSE WILL BE ABLE TO HIT THE BALL TO WHEREVER THEY PLEASE!!

ざわ
ZAWA
CML...ML...
ざわ
ZAWA
IT'S JUST ONE TRICK AFTER ANOTHER WITH THIS LOT... ARE THEY MESSING US ABOUT!?
ふぅ…

HE HAS ME CHASING HIM, BUT HE CONTINUES TO ELUDE MY GRASP!
FURTHER-MORE, HIS MOVEMENTS ARE THOSE OF A MAN INTENT ON EVASION.
IMPOSSIBLE! HAS HE NOTICED MY PRESENCE?
IN THAT CASE...
HEH.
(BA CLUNGE)
...I SHALL HUNT HIM DOWN WITHOUT RESERVE!
HOW ODD!

KA SCHICK
BUWA CFWOOSH
KA
BA

BASA (FLAP)
HE VANISHED!?
WHA—!?
TO CTM?

Black Butler

WHA
—!?
HE VANISHED!?

CHAPTER 79
At noon : The Butler, Final Match

Black Butler

THE HEAD-MASTER HAS DISAPPEARED.
HE AND HIS PRESENCE BOTH—

THE HEADMASTER HIMSELF MAY RETURN THERE AFTER ALL.
PERHAPS I SHOULD REVISIT THE CRICKET FIELD ...?

NIGI (FLEX) にぎ

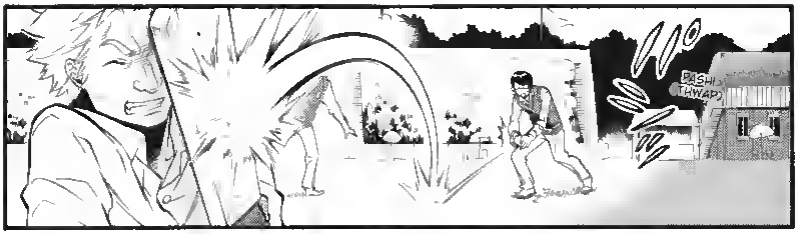
FOR HIM TO BE CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT MEANS THAT HE IS MOST LIKELY—
.....

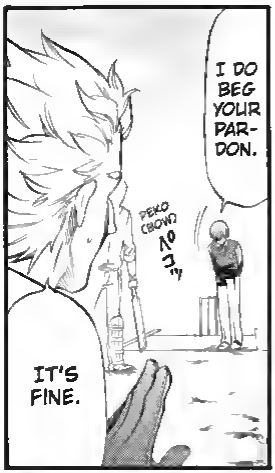
WAAAA (CHEER)
ワアアア…

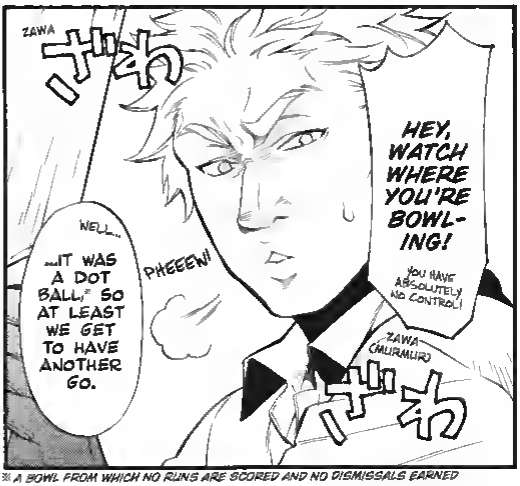
BLOODY BLUE HOUSE. WHAT'RE THEY PLAYING AT!?
HERE I COME!
HE WON'T GET ANYWHERE AGAINST ME, A GREEN HOUSE REGULAR FIVE YEARS RUNNING!
BUT LOOK AT THE PUNY ARMS ON THAT BOWLER... HIS BALL WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH.

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ…
WHAT ARE THEY AIMING TO DO WITH ALL THE DEFENDERS CLUMPED AROUND THE BATSMAN?
THEY DO REALISE THEY'VE LEFT THE FRONT TOTALLY OPEN, DON'T THEY!?

HMPH. I KNEW IT! A SLOW BALL.
TAN (THOK)
BI (WHIP)
HYAH!
EH!?
HYUO (WHOOSH)
GA (WHAM)
ACK!

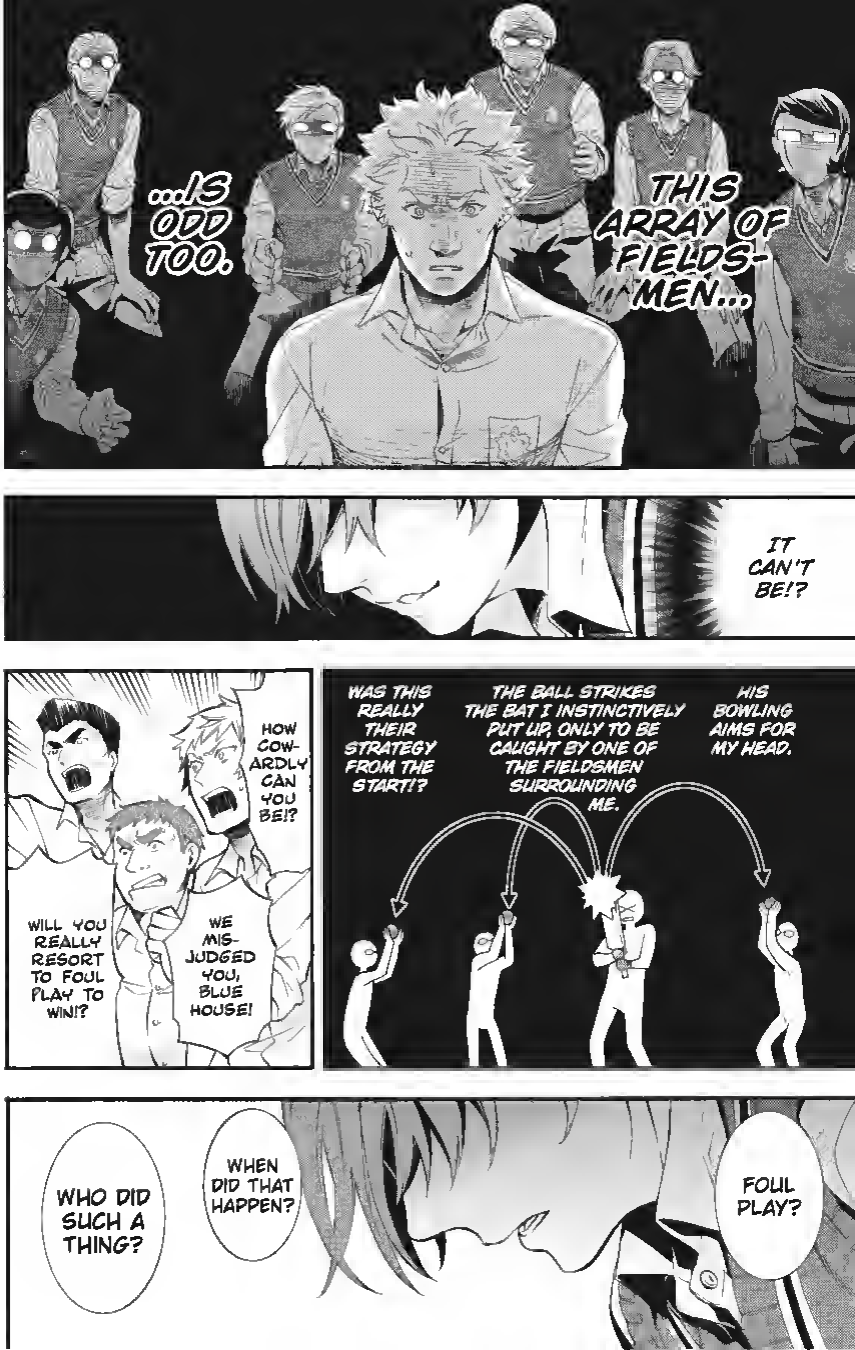





ZAWA
HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE BOWL-ING!
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
WELL...
...IT WAS A DOT BALL,* SO AT LEAST WE GET TO HAVE ANOTHER GO.
PHEEEW!

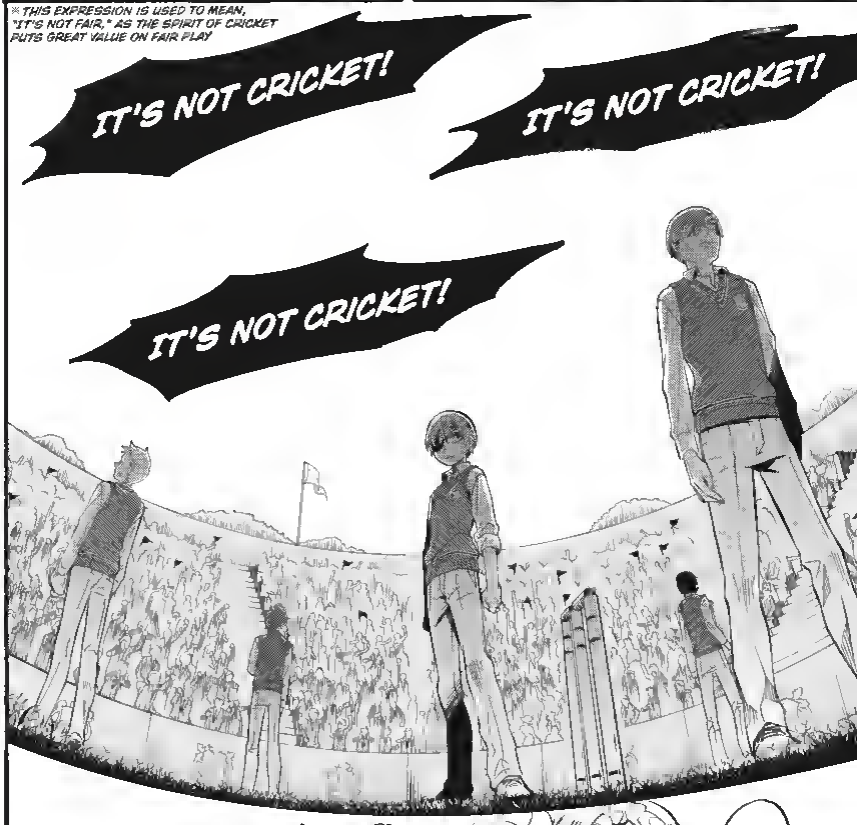
* A BOWL FROM WHICH NO RUNS ARE SCORED AND NO DISMISSALS EARNED

UWAH!
GA (WHAM)
!
AGAIN AT THE FACE!?
PASU (CATCH)
OUT!
WHA —!?
I DO BEG YOUR PAR-DON.
PEKO
NOW JUST A MIN-UTE!!
I WAS ONLY AVOIDING A DANGEROUS BALL JUST NOW.
FIRST OFF, BOWLING SO CARELESSLY TWICE IN A ROW IS—
HA (GASP)
SOMETHING ODD? HASN'T BEEN RIGHT SINCE THIS BRAT STARTED BOWLING.
WAIT, HANG ON—


...IS ODD TOO.
THIS ARRAY OF FIELDS-MEN...
IT CAN'T BE!?
HOW COW-ARDLY CAN YOU BE!?
WILL YOU REALLY RESORT TO FOUL PLAY TO WIN!?
WE MIS-JUDGED YOU, BLUE HOUSE!
WAS THIS REALLY THEIR STRATEGY FROM THE START!?
THE BALL STRIKES THE BAT I INSTINCTIVELY PUT UP, ONLY TO BE CAUGHT BY ONE OF THE FIELDSMEN SURROUNDING ME.
HIS BOWLING AIMS FOR MY HEAD.
WHO DID SUCH A THING?
WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
FOUL PLAY?

A BOWLER DELIVERS A BALL TOWARD THE WICKET.
THE BATSMAN HITS THE BALL IN FRONT OF THE WICKET IN ORDER TO DEFEND IT.
THE BALL PASSES IN THE VICINITY OF THE BATSMAN AS A MATTER OF COURSE.
WHAT ...!?
ON THIS OCCASION, THE BALL TRAVELED A PATH IN THE VICINITY OF THE BATSMAN'S FACE DUE TO MY POOR CONTROL.
THE BATSMAN, "FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER," SWUNG AND HIT THAT BALL INTO THE AIR...
...AND A FIELDSMAN, WHO "JUST HAPPENED" TO BE NEAR THE BALL, CAUGHT IT BEFORE IT HIT THE GROUND.
DOESN'T THAT MAKE THIS A "SIMPLE" OUT?

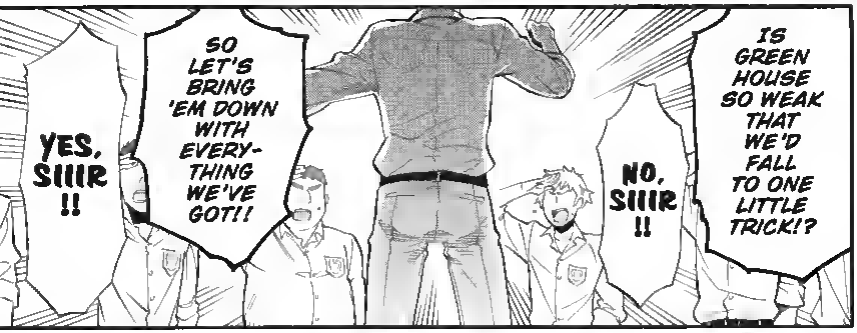
※ THIS EXPRESSION IS USED TO MEAN, "IT'S NOT FAIR," AS THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET PUTS GREAT VALUE ON FAIR PLAY

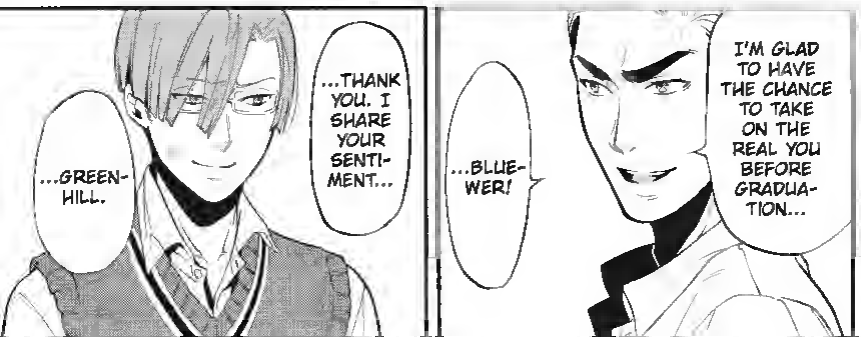


QUIET!!
SHIN (SILENCE)
GUI (TUG)
ARE YOU LOUTS BLIND TO THIS!?
!!
ZA (STEP)
I WON'T STAND FOR HECKLING DURING THIS SACRED MATCH!
AND HOW CAN YOU, IN GOOD FAITH, CALL PHANTOMHIVE A COWARD!?

THIS HAND TELLS THE TALE.
THE TALE OF HIS EFFORTS.
AND HIS PERSIS-TENCE.
BOWLING TO ACCURATELY TARGET A BATSMAN'S HEAD...
...IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
HE MUST'VE PUT IN A GOOD DEAL OF TRAINING TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.
THIS SMALL LAD, WHO HAILS FROM THE UNATHLETIC BLUE HOUSE, HAS GONE TO THESE GREAT LENGTHS!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS!?

!!
...TO HUNT THE LION!
THE OWL HAS COME WITH MIGHT AND MAIN...


YES, SIIIR !!
SO LET'S BRING 'EM DOWN WITH EVERY-THING WE'VE GOT!!
NO, SIIIR !!
IS GREEN HOUSE SO WEAK THAT WE'D FALL TO ONE LITTLE TRICK!?


...GREEN-HILL.
...THANK YOU. I SHARE YOUR SENTI-MENT...
...BLUE-WER!
I'M GLAD TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE ON THE REAL YOU BEFORE GRADUA-TION...

IT'S JUST GOING TO BE A HIGH LEG SIDE BALL.
IF YOU KNOW WHERE THE BOWLER'S AIMING, IT'S EASY—
SU (SWF)
RIGHT, THEN.
PLAY!!
I'LL PULL IT HARD!
KUH!
IT'S LOW OFF SIDE ...!?
HYUO (WHIZ)
GA (WHAM)

WHY, THAT LITTLE ...!
WHEN THEY'RE THAT TENSE, IT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO REACT TO ONE COMING IN LOW OFF SIDE.
EH!?
THE BATSMAN ASSUMES THAT "THE BALL'S COMING FOR MY HEAD" AND BRACES FOR A HIGH LEG SIDE DELIVERY.
ATTACK, AND YOU'RE BOWLED.
DEFEND, AND YOU'RE CAUGHT.
THIS IS—
SUCH GENTLEMANLY AGREEMENTS WILL DRIVE YOU INTO A CORNER.
NO PENALTIES ARE ASSESSED WHEN A BOWL STRIKES THE BATSMAN... MOREOVER, "THERE DOES NOT EXIST A BOWLER WHO WOULD EVER BOWL A DANGEROUS BALL BY DESIGN."*

*THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT OF BASEBALL'S DEAD BALL IN CRICKET

OVER-
THE-EDGE
TACTICS!

OUT!
ZUSAAA (SLIIIDE)
CAUGHT!
GARI
KUH!
GA (WHOOO)
I'VE GOT ONE BOWL LEFT.
BLUE 105
N 91
SO FAR, I'VE HELD THEM SCORELESS AND SECURED TWO OUTS.
ZA (STEP)
THE NEXT BATSMAN UP IS—

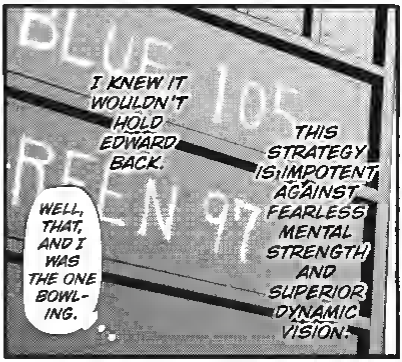
HERE I COME!!
FIGHT ME, CIEL!!
HYU (ZOOM)
TOO SLOW !!
GA (CRACK)
ZA (SKIDH)

A SIIIIX ~!!
WA (CHEER)
GOO (WHOOOM)

HE'S SMILING ...?

OH?
BUT THE YOUNG MASTER...
UUU. SHOULD I BE HAPPY...
DR. SAD
WHOOO BOY~! 'COURSE HIS BALL GOT HAMMERED.

KUSHA (RUFFLE)
くしゃっ
EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR IS ALL WELL WITHIN OUR EXPECTATIONS... THE REST IS—!
GOOD JOB, PHANTOM-HIVE.


I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HOLD EDWARD BACK.
WELL, THAT, AND I WAS THE ONE BOWLING.
THIS STRATEGY IS IMPOTENT AGAINST FEARLESS MENTAL STRENGTH AND SUPERIOR DYNAMIC VISION.

ZA (STEP)
LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
AND I'LL TURN THE TABLES HERE ALL BY MYSELF.
I SCORED THIRTY RUNS ON YOU BACK THEN.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE LAST TIME, MIDFORD.
...WE WILL BE TAKING THE VICTORY FOR OUR-SELVES!
SO THIS YEAR ...
DA (DASH)
ARTICLE 8 OF WESTON COLLEGE'S SCHOOL REGULATIONS— "STUDENTS MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THEIR STUDIES AND TRAINING DAILY."
SU (SWF)

EH!?
SUPO (SHOOP)
BUN (FLING)
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
DO (BOOM)
PFF!
... SLIP OUT OF HIS HANDS ...?
DID THE BALL ...
SHIIIIN (SILENCE)
HA
JUST COS YOU GOT SMARTS DOESN'T MEAN YOU OUGHTA TRY YOUR HAND AT SPORTS TOOOO-!
HE'S ALL SHOW!
HA
HA
HA!

AT SOME POINT, THAT SIGHT JUST BECAME THE NORM FOR BOOKISH BLUE HOUSE.
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE I ENROLLED HERE. IN ALL THAT TIME, I'VE ONLY EVER GOTTEN A TASTE OF BLUE HOUSE BEING LAST.
BUT ONE STUDENT ALONE STOOD APART FROM US.
SO THEN WHAT'S THE SIZE OF A SMALLER BAT!?
AND WEAKER THAN ALL THE REST, HE SET HIS MIND TO ONE THING: WINNING—
WE USE THE BAT TO SET UP AN IMPENETRABLE DEFENCE IN FRONT OF THE WICKET...
...AND NOT SWING IT AT ALL.
AND HE CONTINUED TO ENDEAVOUR FOR THE SAKE OF VICTORY.

THAT WAS A LIE.
FUWA (FWNF)
...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT COMING IN LAST EVERYWHERE ELSE.
AS LONG AS I EXCEL IN ACADEMICS...
...THAT I BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO DEFEAT?
WHEN WAS IT...
I WANT TO BE VICTORIOUS IN THIS, MY LAST SCHOOL TOURNAMENT AS BLUE HOUSE PREFECT—
—I WANT— TO WIN.
...AND TRAIN AS HARD AS HE DID.
ALL I COULD DO WAS MAKE PRECISE CALCULATIONS AND COME UP WITH DETAILED PLANS...
JUST THAT—
SU (SWF)
g=9.80665

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
TTAAAN (CLATTER)

A...
AMAZIIIING!!
WHOOOA!?
WAAAA (CHEER)
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE!?
YOU DID IIIIT! BANG ON, HOUSE CAPTAIIN!!
DID YOU SEE THAT, GREEN HOUSE!?
わっ
WA
THE BALL...
...FELL OUT OF THE SKY...?
AAA
IT JUST TOOK A SIMPLE CALCULATION OF TRAJECTORY.
H...
ZAWA CHURUDO
HOW EXACTLY ARE WE S'POSED TO HIT A BALL LIKE THAT...?
WITHOUT EVEN A HINT OF DEVIATION TO ITS STRAIGHT PATH, THE BALL NOSE-DIVES RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY, HUNTING THE WICKET.
IT'S JUST LIKE A—

HUNTER IN THE DARK!

Black Butler

Chapter 80

In the afternoon : The Butler, Bowling Well

WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT BALL!?
HE BROUGHT DOWN THE SEASONED EDWARD MIDFORD WITH ONE DELIVERY ...?
WAAAAA (CHEER)
ワアアアア…
ZA (STRIDE)
LEAVE IT TO YOU TO COME UP WITH THAT, BLUEWER.
ZA
A DELIVERY CALCULATED TO WITHIN AN INCH OF ITS LIFE IS SO LIKE YOU.
ZA
ZA
HOWEVER—

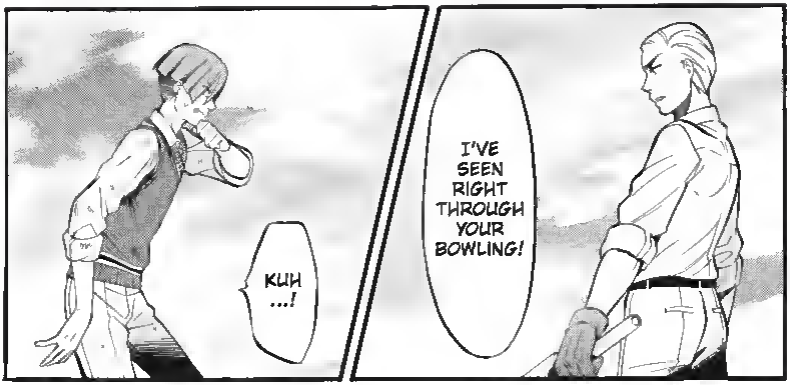
THE LAST BATSMAN'S GREEN-HILL.
IT'S A P4 SHOW-DOWN!
BRAINS VERSUS BRAWN...
WHICH WILL PREVAIL!?
105
97
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BALL I CAN'T HIT!

HERE WE GO!
DA (DASH)
ZA (SKSH)
ZA
BO (VOOM)

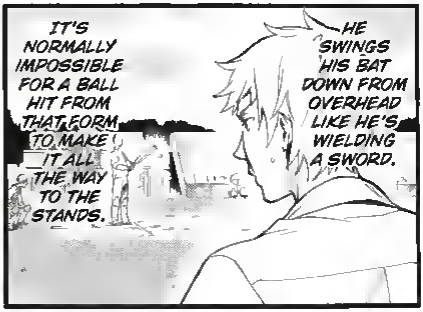
GO...
...O...
GOOOO (WHOOOSH)
...OOOO!!!
KA (GLARE)
UWOOOOO

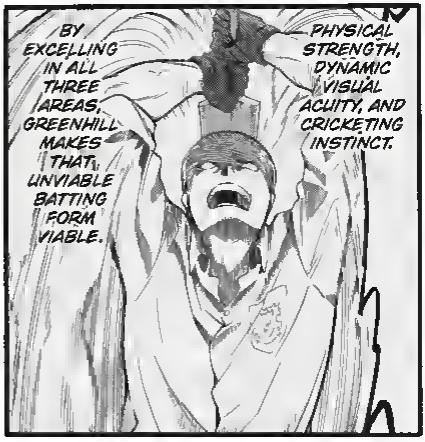
(WOOHM)
NOA

EEK!
H
W
BON (BOOM)
GOU (WHOOSH)
A—
A...!
SHUUU (SSSST)
IT'S TO 103 ~!!
A SIIIIX ~!!

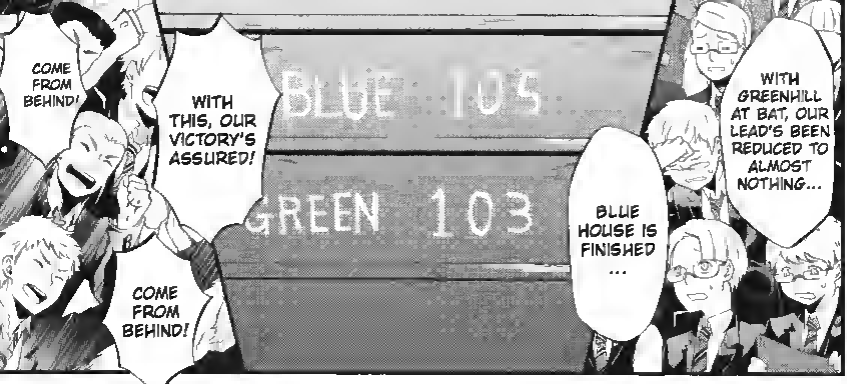

KUH ...!
I'VE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH YOUR BOWLING!

A MIGHTY BLADE THAT LAYS WASTE TO ALL IN ITS PATH—
IT IS A POWER ONLY THE CHOSEN MAY WIELD.


IT'S NORMALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A BALL HIT FROM THAT FORM TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE STANDS.
HE SWINGS HIS BAT DOWN FROM OVERHEAD LIKE HE'S WIELDING A SWORD.


BY EXCELLING IN ALL THREE AREAS, GREENHILL MAKES THAT UNVIABLE BATTING FORM VIABLE.
PHYSICAL STRENGTH, DYNAMIC VISUAL ACUITY, AND CRICKETING INSTINCT.

SWORD—EXCALIBUR!


COME FROM BEHIND!
WITH THIS, OUR VICTORY'S ASSURED!
BLUE 105
GREEN 103
COME FROM BEHIND!
BLUE HOUSE IS FINISHED ...
WITH GREENHILL AT BAT, OUR LEAD'S BEEN REDUCED TO ALMOST NOTHING...

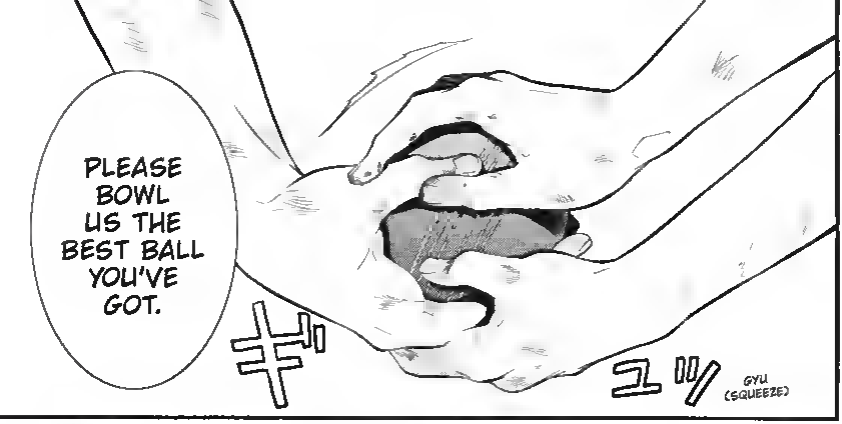
DON (PAT)
BLUEWER.
I HAVEN'T ANY OTHER WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO FIGHT...

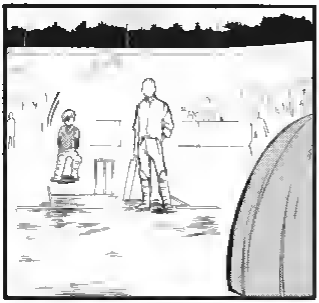
FOR IT... TO BE OVERCOME SO SOON IS—
I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD INTO MASTERING THIS DELIVERY.
WAAAA (CHEER)

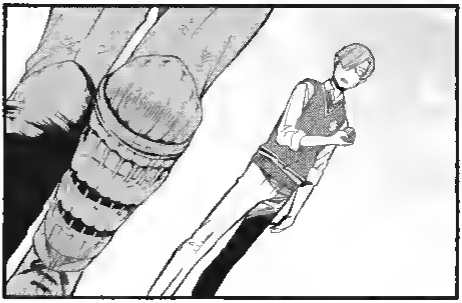
SHALL WE JUST HAND THEM THE RUNS, IS THAT IT?
THAT BOWL DIDN'T WORK!

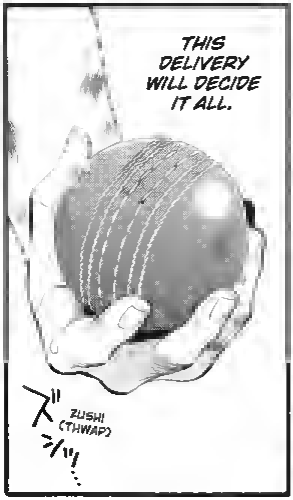
LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER GO.

BLUEWER... I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU.
BECAUSE YOU TOOK THIS SERIOUSLY, THE STUDENTS OF BLUE HOUSE WERE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER AND FIGHT AS ONE.
THAT'S WHY...
...I WANT YOU TO BOWL WITHOUT ANY REGRETS.
WIN OR LOSE...
YES—
I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME.


PLEASE BOWL US THE BEST BALL YOU'VE GOT.
ギュ
GYU (SQUEEZE)



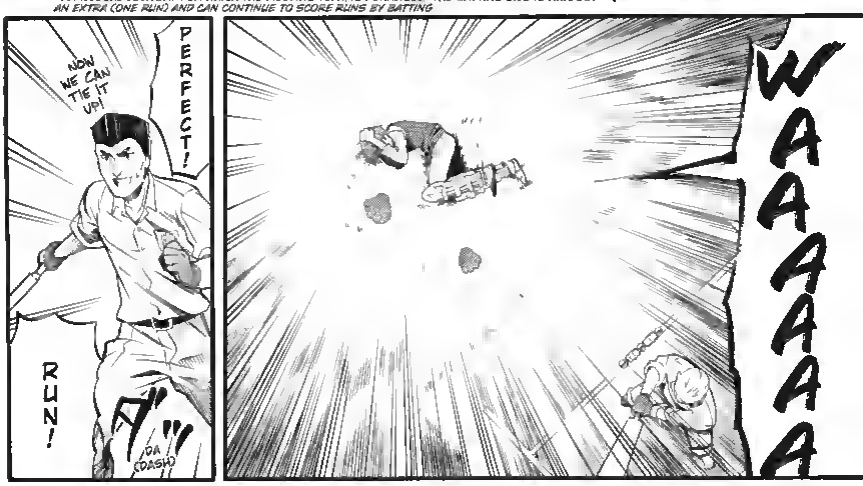


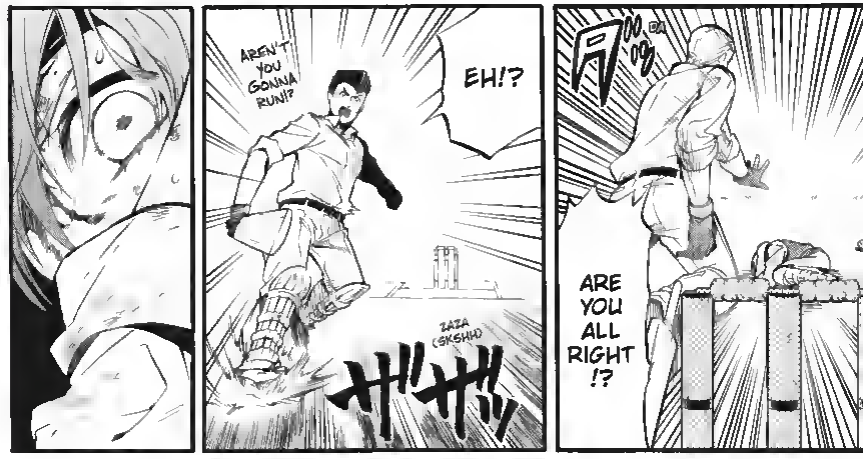

THIS DELIVERY WILL DECIDE IT ALL.
ズシ
ZUSHI (THWAP)

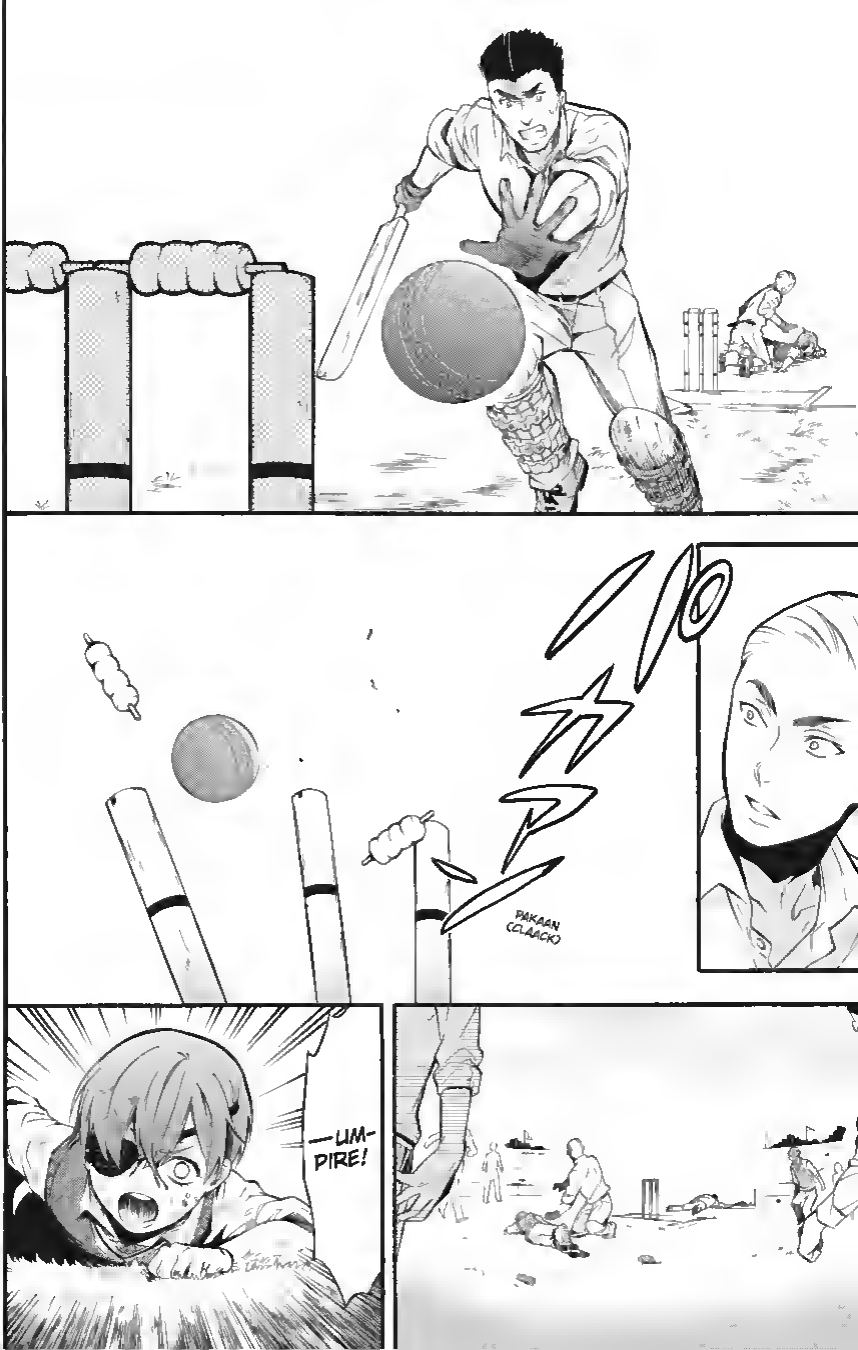
THE LAST BOWL OF MY SCHOOL LIFE.
I'LL BET THE PRIDE OF BLUE HOUSE ...
...S AND MY OWN PRIDE TOO ...
...ON THIS ONE BALL !!
UWOOOOO
SO CRUSHING

UWOOOO
CHILD'S PLAY!
ZAZA (SHUFFLE)
GA (THWACK)

*AN ILLEGAL DELIVERY FOR WHICH THE FIELDING TEAM IS PENALISED. THE BATTING SIDE IS AWARDED AN EXTRA (ONE RUN) AND CAN CONTINUE TO SCORE RUNS BY BATTING






PAKAAN
(CLAACK)
—UM-
PIRE!

OUT!
HA (GASP)
BLUE 105
GREEN 104
TIME! THE MATCH IS OVER—!!
GREEN HOUSE, TEN OUTS.
B—!
B—
...B—

アア
BLUE HOUSE WONNN .....!!!

ワアア
WAAAAA
CROAKING

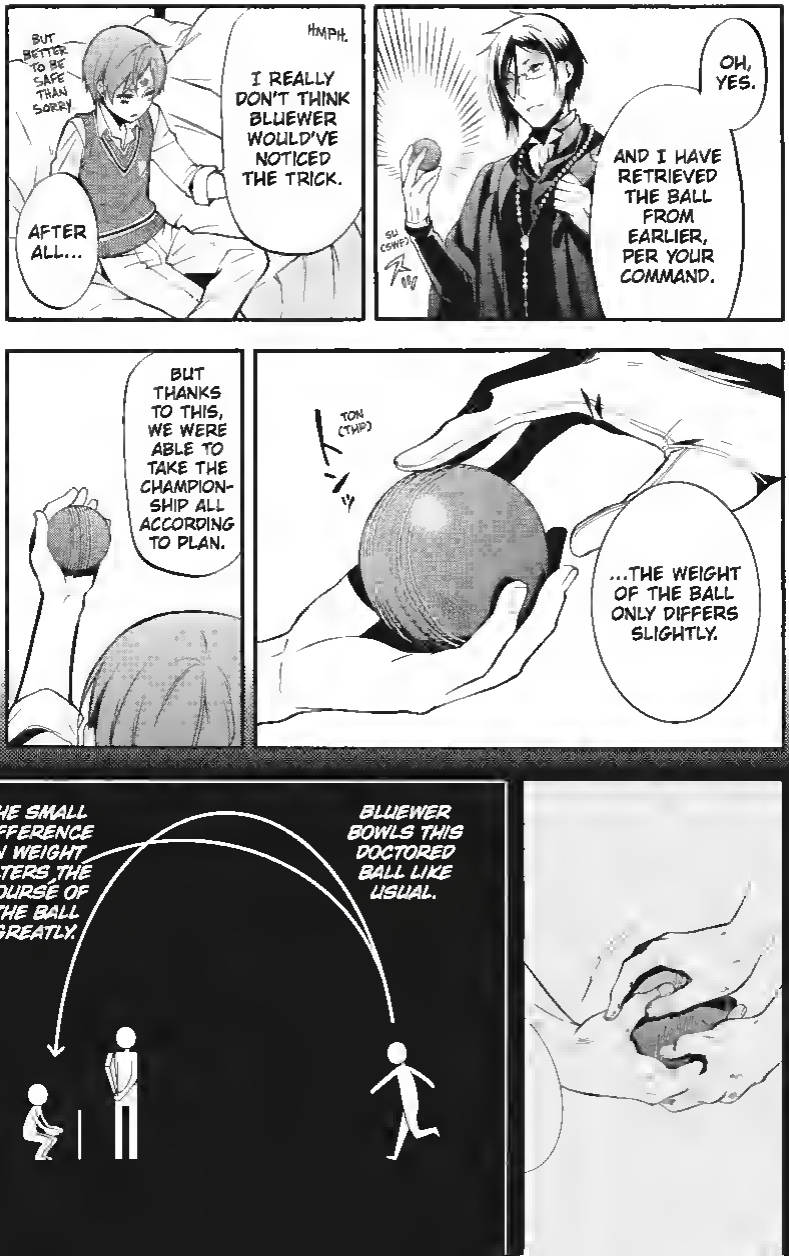
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WAAA (CHEER)
IT'S A SECOND MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES! HUZZAH~!!
HEAVE-HO—!
FUWA CHIHISKO
GETTING THAT CUT SEEN TO COMES FIRST.
HOW COULD YOU BE SO RECKLESS!?
WHEN DID HE—!?
MISTER MICHAELIS...

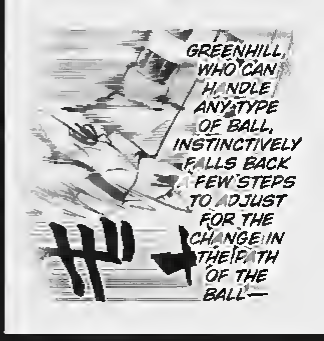
BUT... WINNING ALONGSIDE EVERYONE HAS MADE ME SO HAPPY...
...THAT I'VE ALL BUT FORGOTTEN THE PAIN!
WE GOT TO PROVE TO EVERYONE THAT EVEN BLUE HOUSE CAN WIN IF WE PUT OUR MINDS TO IT—
HEH...!
YOU REALLY ARE...

...A MOST INCORRIGIBLE BOY.
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI

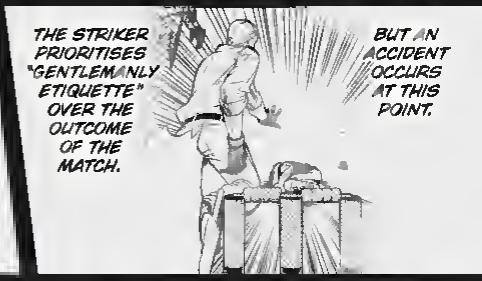
WAA (CHEER)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
—OW!
BOSTON COLLEGE
SAINT HUGH
BOYS' DORMITORY

HAD YOU NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR PAIN OUT OF HAPPINESS?
HEH!
DEAR, OH DEAR.
OUCH! CAN'T YOU GO ABOUT IT A LITTLE MORE GENTLY!!?
IF IT HURTS, IT HURTS!!
YOU MUST BE JOKING !!?
UGH!
ZUKI
...IT APPEARS YOU CAME AWAY WITH AN EVEN FINER BADGE OF HONOUR THAN YOU HAD ANTICIPATED ...
HEH! HEH!
ZUKI (THROB)
CURSE THAT GREEN-HILL....
KACHA (CLINK)
YOUR PLAY-MAKING WENT EXACTLY AS PLANNED.
SUPERBLY DONE.
...HOW-EVER...


BUT BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY
AFTER ALL...
I REALLY DON'T THINK BLUEWER WOULD'VE NOTICED THE TRICK.
HMPH.
OH, YES.
AND I HAVE RETRIEVED THE BALL FROM EARLIER, PER YOUR COMMAND.
SU CONF
BUT THANKS TO THIS, WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE THE CHAMPION-SHIP ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN.
TON (THD)
...THE WEIGHT OF THE BALL ONLY DIFFERS SLIGHTLY.
THE SMALL DIFFERENCE IN WEIGHT ALTERS THE COURSE OF THE BALL GREATLY.
BLUEWER BOWLS THIS DOCTORED BALL LIKE USUAL.


GREENHILL, WHO CAN HANDLE ANY TYPE OF BALL, INSTINCTIVELY FALLS BACK A FEW STEPS TO ADJUST FOR THE CHANGE IN THE PATH OF THE BALL—

NATURALLY, THE BATTING TEAM'S OTHER PLAYER, THE NON-STRIKER, RUNS WITH THE AIM OF KNOTTING UP THE SCORE.
NOW I CAN TIE IT UP!
MOREOVER, I, THE WICKET-KEEPER, HAVE YET TO RETRIEVE THE BALL.
AT THE SAME TIME, BLUEWER'S ILLEGAL DELIVERY IS DECLARED A NO BALL, AND GREEN HOUSE COMES WITHIN ONE POINT OF BLUE HOUSE.



YES, THAT'S HOW...

...AND BLUE HOUSE, FAMOUS FOR BEING THE PERENNIAL LOSER, MIRACULOUSLY WINS THE CHAMPIONSHIP THANKS TO THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE WICKET-KEEPER.
CURIOUSER STILL, IT'S THE TENTH OUT...

A MORE PERFECT TEARJERKER OF AN ENDING I COULDN'T HOPE FOR.
...I SCORED AND GOT MY HOUSE THE CHAMPI-ONSHIP CROWN.
I TOO CANNOT COMPREHEND THE HUMAN AESTHETIC OF A "BEAUTIFUL DEFEAT" AT ALL.
STILL...
HA.
TO BOWL A BALL YOU KNOW WILL BE BEAT...
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT BLUEWER AND THE OTHERS ONE BIT.

WELL?
HOW DID YOU DO?
THE HEAD-MASTER ...
HUNH?
SU (SHF)
...IS HERE.
I REGRET TO INFORM YOU...
...THAT I DID MY UTMOST TO PURSUE HIM, BUT THE MOMENT I HAD HIM, THIS WAS ALL THERE WAS.
...!?
THE HEAD-MASTER ESCAPED!?
WITH A DEVIL LIKE SEBAS-TIAN IN ALL-OUT PURSUIT !?

THE PLOT CONTINUES TO THICKEN...
WHO IN THE WORLD IS THIS HEAD-MASTER!?
TO THINK HE MANAGED TO ELUDE A DEVIL—
I'M FAMISHED!
IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD'VE JUST HAD YOU MAKE ME SOME DESSERTS OR SOMETHING.
—BAH!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
SO I PREPARED THIS FOR YOU.
TODAY'S DESSERT
Eton mess with a side of iced summer pudding
BUT...

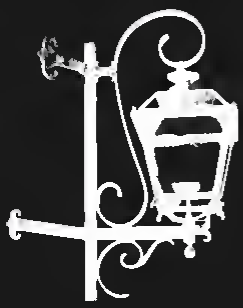
...YOU WILL HAVE TO SAVE THIS FOR LATER—
PHANTOMHIIIVE!
BAN (WHAM)
BA (WH)

YOU THERE!
QUIET IN THE SANA-TORIUM!
OH!
PARDON ME, MISTER MICHAE-LIIIIS!
WAI
WAI (MERRY)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, I THINK SO.
BLUEWER WAS CRYING! DID YOU SEE?
NO.
EVEN STINGY OLD CLAYTON WAS RAVING ABOUT YOU!
OH?

I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD WITNESS THE MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES FIRSTHAND ...!
THANK YOU, PHANTOMHIVE!

HERE YOU GO!
PAFU
WAH!
IT REALLY WASN'T MY DOING.
PFF!
YOUR HAT FOR THE BOAT PARADE!
AH HA HA!
REALLY SUITS YOOOU!
THEY SAID YOU GET TO BE THE COX!
MARVELOUS!
TH-THANK YOU.
OOH, TOP FORM, OLD CHAP!
GUIII
GUIII SYANKO
WELL, LET'S BE OFF!
EH!?

IT'S TIME FOR THE CHAMPION HOUSE'S BOAT PARADE!!



Black Butler

CHAPTER 81

At night : The Butler, Under Lock and Key

Black Butler

A WESTON COLLEGE INSTITUTION, THE FOURTH OF JUNE CRICKET TOURNAMENT.
THE MAIN EVENT OF THE EVENING FESTIVITIES FOLLOWING THE CONTEST IS THE WINNING HOUSE'S BOAT PARADE.
HOH ...
SO THIS IS THE COX COSTUME THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN IN BLUE HOUSE FOR GENERATIONS?
GAYA (CLAMOUR)
GAYA
MY, THAT IS QUITE SOMETHING...

STILL, FOR AN OUTFIT THAT'S ONLY BEEN WORN ONCE THIS THING'S A MESS...
SO WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO.
NORMALLY, IT'D BE AN UPPER-CLASSMAN IN THE PARADE
SEBASTIAN, TAILOR THESE TO FIT, WOULD YOU...?
THERE IS NO NEED.
GOSO
GOSO (SNG)
ゴソ
ゴソ
HOLD YOUR TONGUE!
YOUR APPEARANCE IS FAR AND AWAY MORE UNSIGHTLY THAN EVEN I HAD EXPECTED.
DEROOON (BAGGY)
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I, AS YOUR BUTLER, WOULD HAVE SEEN TO THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD "WIN," YOUNG MASTER.
EH?
GAPA (POP)
がぱっ

WE'RE TAKING A PHOTO!
COME ALONG NOW!
KASHA (SNAP)
カシャ

NOW I'LL TALK YOU THROUGH THE SEQUENCE FOR THE PROCESSION.
WE WILL SAIL FROM FELLOWS' EYOT AND GO DOWN THE THAMES.
UPON APPROACHING WINDSOR CASTLE, WE MUST ALL REMOVE OUR HATS AND SALUTE HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
THEN WE'LL CAST THE FLOWERS IN OUR CAPS INTO THE RIVER BEFORE RETURNING TO THE DOCK.
UNDER-STOOD!
STAY FOCUSED TILL THE VERY END!
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ERROR!

YES, SAINT!
LIGHT THE LANTERNS WITH THE FLAMES OF SAINT GEORGE!
THE SUN HAS SET...
PO (GLOW)
POU
PO
READY, GO!

CATCH.
ROW —!
WAA (CHEER)
WOW ...
IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL...

WHERE!?
THERE, ON THE BRIDGE !!
HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN!!
I DON'T SEE HER —!

TIME TO SALUTE HER MAJESTY!
WA (CHEER)
OH!
THE COX IS UP!
FOOL! STAY IN RHYTHM!
I-I'M STARTING TO GET NERVOUS >//
HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN!
YOUR MAJESTY.
AND I SHALL PRESENT IT TO YOU WITHOUT FAIL.
THE TRUTH IS CLOSE AT HAND.

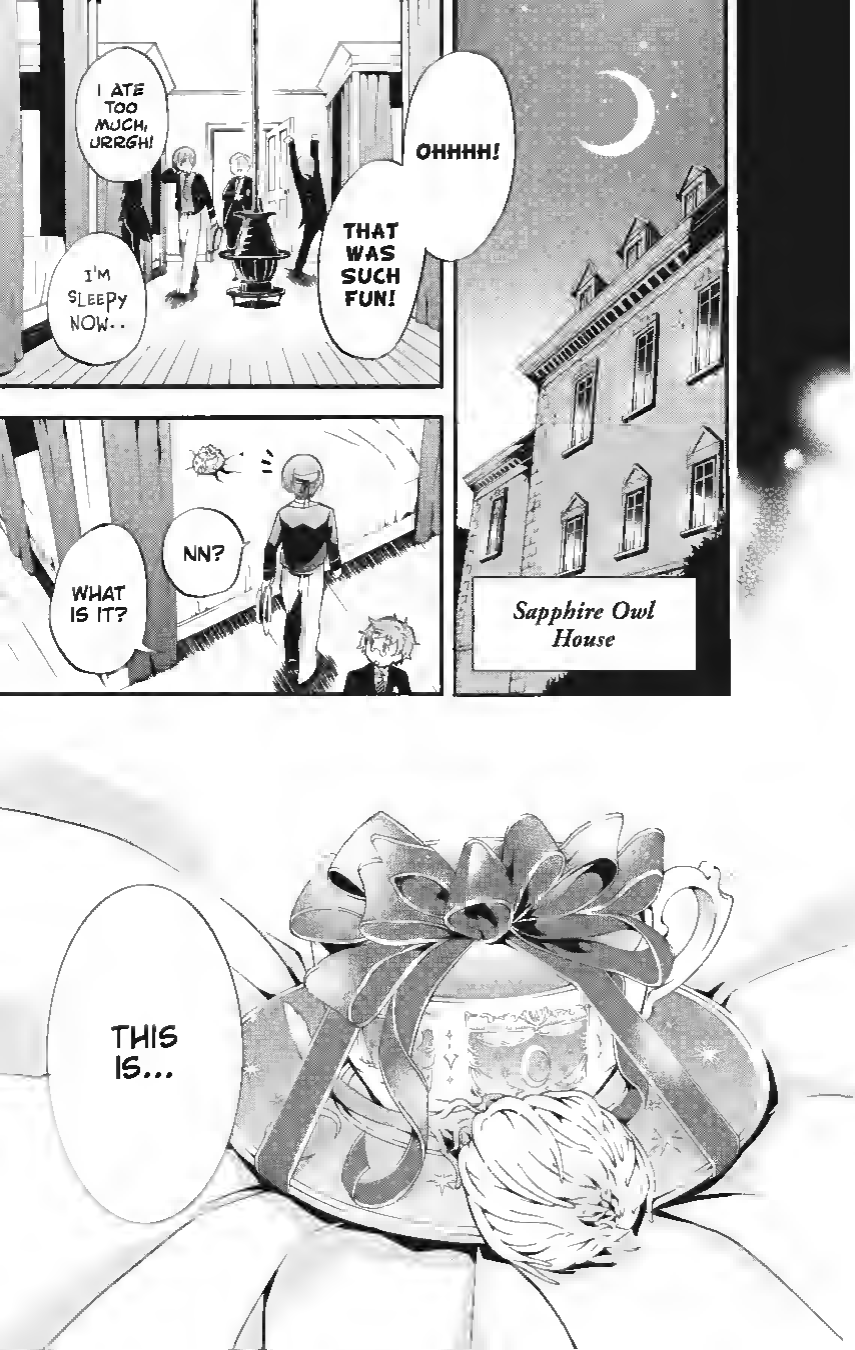
SHA (SHK)
SALUTE HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN!
WAA
PHANTOMHIVE...
WE WON THIS TOURNAMENT THROUGH METICULOUS CALCULATION.
—HOWEVER...
...WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE ONE FATAL ERROR.
EH?

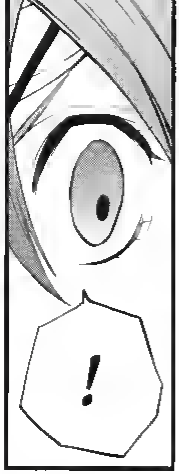
AH!
GURA (SWAY)
GURA
WAH!
GAKU (SHAKE)
...WE NEVER ONCE PRACTICED FOR THE BOAT PARADE!
BECAUSE WE NEVER TRULY THOUGHT WE WOULD EMERGE VICTORI-OUS...
GAKU

BWAI~
ACK!
BUT TO BE HONEST, THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO SEE!
AH HA HA!
THEY FELL IN!
BAAAH!
BOOGN (SFLOOSH)
NAAAH!
DO (WHOOP)
HYUN (FWEET)
THAT'S THE WAY!
THAT'S BLUE HOUSE FOR YOU!

BOOM
BOOM
YAAY (CHEER)
DODON (KABOOM)
BEAU-TIFUL ISN'T IT?
IT'S DAZ-ZLING ...
IT'S SO DAZZLING THAT I FEEL MY EYES STING.

ALUMNI


I ATE TOO MUCH, URRGH!
I'M SLEEPY NOW..
OHHHH!
THAT WAS SUCH FUN!
Sapphire Owl House
NN?
WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS...

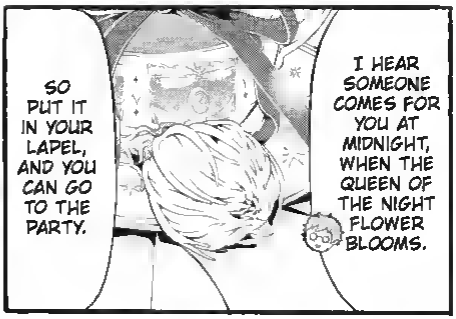

!

YOU'VE BEEN INVITED TO THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY"!

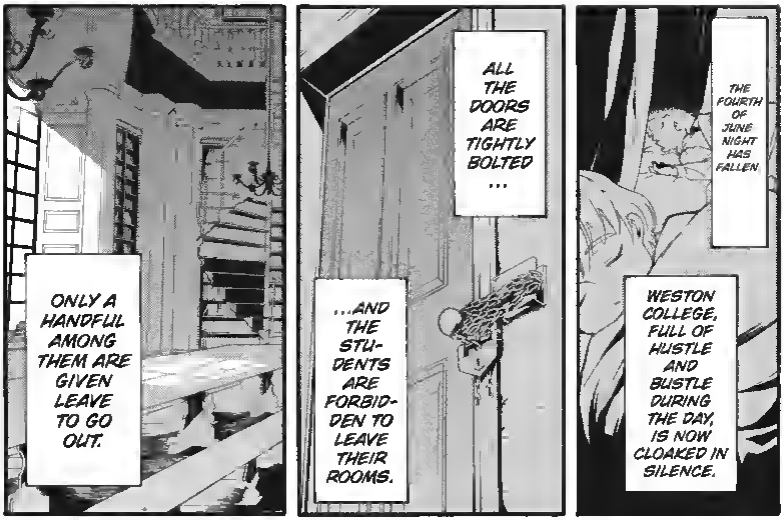
I—
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN MY HANDS ON THE PRIVILEGE TO HAVE A SIT-DOWN WITH THE HEAD-MASTER!
AWWW I LUVV YOU!
AMAZIIING!
I'VE DONE IT!

COMIIING!
GENTLE-MEN, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BATHS.


SO PUT IT IN YOUR LAPEL, AND YOU CAN GO TO THE PARTY.
I HEAR SOMEONE COMES FOR YOU AT MIDNIGHT, WHEN THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT FLOWER BLOOMS.

I'LL FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL THE RIDDLES AT THAT TEA PARTY!
THE FATE OF THE MISSING STUDENTS, THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE HEAD—


ONLY A HANDFUL AMONG THEM ARE GIVEN LEAVE TO GO OUT.
...AND THE STUDENTS ARE FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THEIR ROOMS.
ALL THE DOORS ARE TIGHTLY BOLTED ...
THE FOURTH OF JUNE NIGHT HAS FALLEN.
WESTON COLLEGE, FULL OF HUSTLE AND BUSTLE DURING THE DAY, IS NOW CLOAKED IN SILENCE.

THOSE ATTENDING THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY"—

ギィ
GII (CREAK)
ooo

コンコン
KON KON (KNOCK KNOCK)

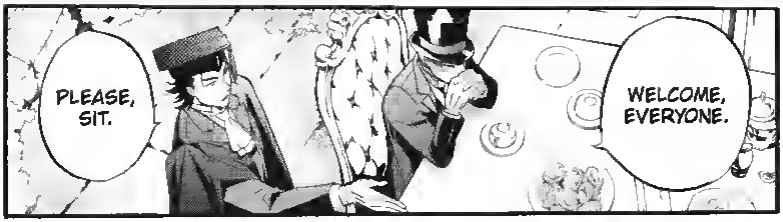
It's time.
ガチャ
GACHA (CLACK)

...PHANTOM HIVE.
WELCOME ...
... CURIOUS ...
... LOFTY ...
... STORIED ...
TO THE ELEGANT ...
...MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY.

GARAN
(GARAN!! GARAN!!)
KACHI (TICK)
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO (CREAK)

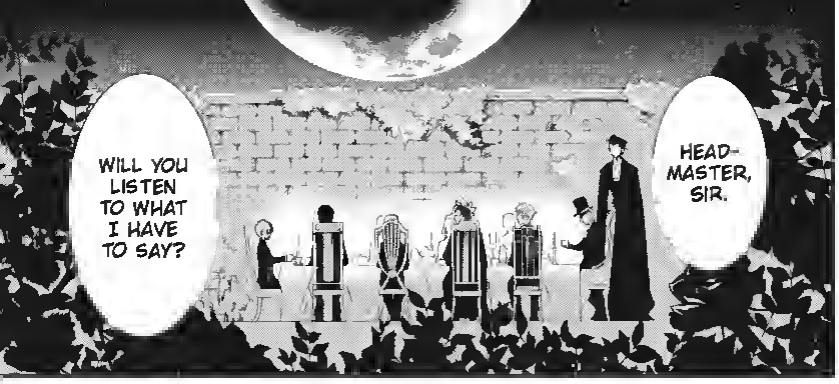
GOUIN
CMOGMAJ

THE HEAD-MASTER.
THE ABSOLUTE RULER OF WESTON COLLEGE.
SO THAT'S HIM.


PLEASE, SIT.
WELCOME, EVERYONE.

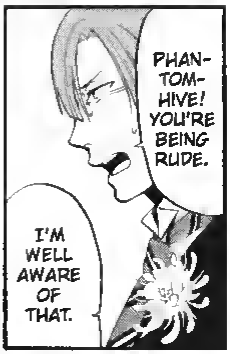
VERY WELL, THEN.
WE HAVE KEPT WITH TRADITION AND SEEN THE FOURTH OF JUNE THROUGH WITHOUT INCIDENT.
IT'S A LITTLE DULL, BUT LET'S TOAST WITH A CUP OF TEA.
LAW-RENCE, PROPOSE A TOAST.
YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE YOUR TEA NOW.
A TOAST ...
...TO WESTON COL—
ONE MOMENT, IF YOU PLEASE.

WHY IS THAT?
SOME-THING WEIGHS ON MY MIND.
AS IT STANDS, I CAN'T SINCERELY DRINK TO THIS TOAST.
!?
DERRICK ARDEN AND HIS FRIENDS.
CIEL ...?
I CAN'T RAISE MY TEACUP UNTIL I SEE THEM.
KACHAN CKACLINK


WILL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
HEAD-MASTER, SIR.

—!

"BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR SCHOOL-FELLOWS AND ASSIST THEM WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION...
...AT ALL TIMES."
BUT IN ARTICLE 15 OF THE SCHOOL REGULA-TIONS, IT IS WRITTEN THUS—

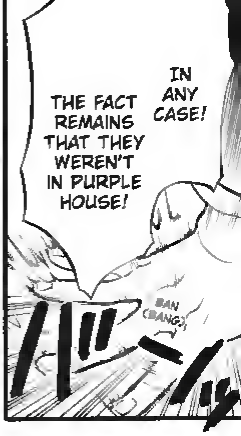

PHAN-TOM-HIVE! YOU'RE BEING RUDE.
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.

I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT SINCE ABOUT A YEAR AGO THEY'VE NOT ONCE RETURNED HOME AND HAVE SHUT THEMSELVES UP IN THEIR HOUSE.
DERRICK ARDEN.
RICHARD GLEASON. HANS HARDY. ROBERT ISAAC. WAYNE THEWLIS.

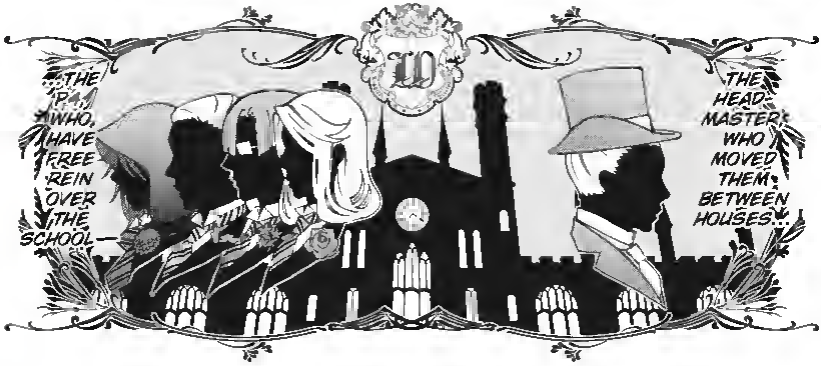
YOU SEE, WHEN I ENROLLED AT THIS SCHOOL...
...THEIR PARENTS BEGGED ME TO PERSUADE THEM TO RETURN HOME JUST ONCE.
HOHH.
BUT WHEN TRYING TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THEM, I WAS MET WITH ODD SITUATIONS AT EVERY TURN.
AND I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO CATCH EVEN A GLIMPSE OF THEM.
THEIR SUDDEN TRANSFERS FROM RED HOUSE TO PURPLE HOUSE, FOR ONE.
MORE PUZZLING STILL IS WHAT OCCURRED DURING THE FIRE THE OTHER DAY.
EVERY STUDENT OF PURPLE HOUSE OUGHT TO HAVE EVACUATED, BUT THE MISSING STUDENTS WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
YET VIOLET SAID...

.....
...
VIOLET ...?
...
...
...

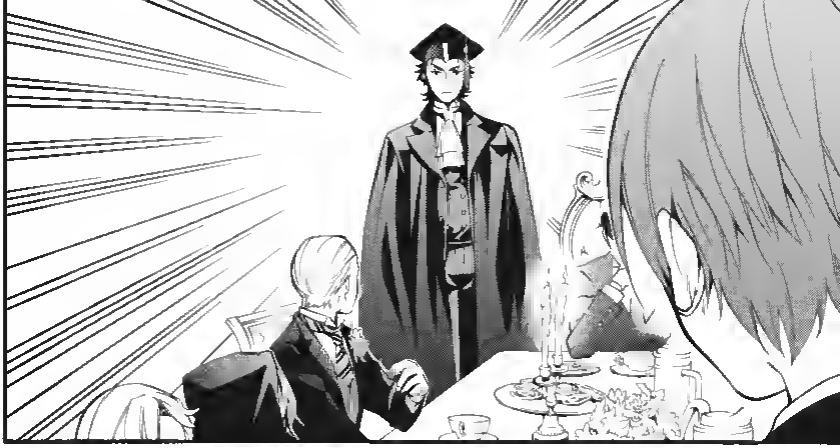
FIVE STUDENTS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHERE EVERY SINGLE DAY IS STRICTLY MANAGED.
SOMETHING IS CLEARLY AMISS HERE!



AT BEST, THEY'VE FLED. AT WORST, THEY'RE DEAD.

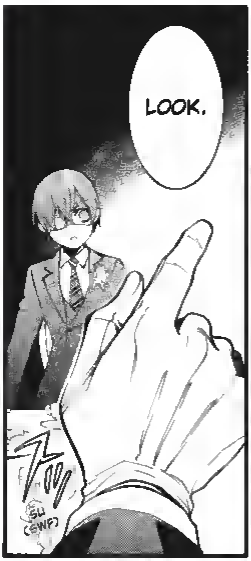


THEY BRUSHED ME OFF BEFORE BY SAYING, "IT WAS THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION," BUT THAT EXCUSE WON'T WORK HERE, WITH BOTH PARTIES PRESENT.
ZA (WHOOSH)
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEY'RE CONCEALING SOMETHING.
THERE IS NO NEED TO DO THAT.
IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT THEY'RE IN A SITUATION OF GREAT PERIL.
I'LL UNCOVER WHAT YOU'RE HIDING!
WHY NOT ASK FOR THE YARD'S ASSISTANCE IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!?
HEAD-MASTER!



FOR...

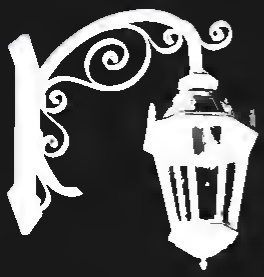
WHAT?


LOOK.
SU (SWIP)

...THEY ARE RIGHT HERE IN THE SCHOOL.

!?
GACHA (RATTLE)
000
HULLO...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
I DETECT THE WONDERFUL AROMA OF TEA.
KOTSU (CLICK)

DERRICK ARDEN!?



Black Butler

CHAPTER 82

At midnight: The Butler, Having a Laugh

DERRICK ARDEN... HE'S ALIVE!?
THEN WHY DID HE DROP OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL NOW!?
ARE YOU REALLY F—
ARDEN ...?
SUTA (STANDS)
SUTA
WELL, RATS! THERE HE IS, ALL FINE AND DANDY.

HULLO...
I DETECT THE WONDERFUL AROMA OF TEA.
GI CORRANO
GI
GATA (SHAKE)
A—
ARD—
KOKA (CHILL)

GABU! (CHOMP)
DASH! (RUN!) (CRASH!)
!?
AAAAAA
BUCH!
BUCH!
BUCH! (RIP!)
GYA AAAAA

SAM CLATTER
YOU CUR !!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING !?
BAKI (CRACK)
WHA —!?
GURLIN (FWIP)

GAAAA (SNARL)
THAT WOUND IS...!!
AH...
GUI (YANK)
TCH!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONES ON THE CREATURES ABOARD THE CAMPANIA —!!
COME!
SEBASTIAN!!
KA (FLASH)

OOOOO
(FWOOOO)
ZAN
(SHWOO)

I COM-MAND YOU!!
APPREHEND DERRICK!
MISTER MICHAE-LIS!?
YES...
...MY LORD.

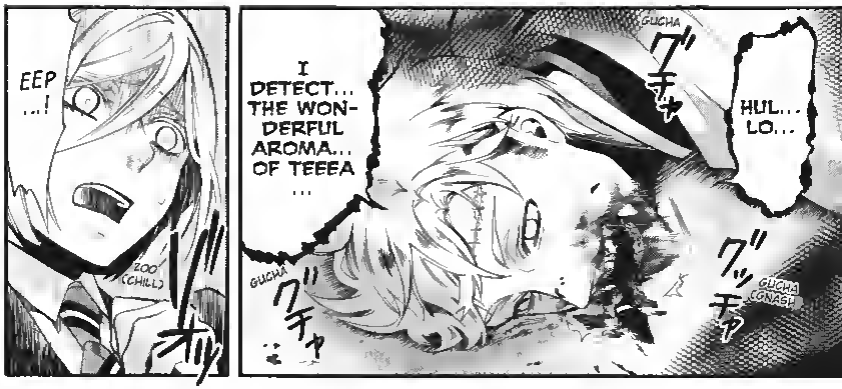
10
PAA
(FWAP)
WHA
—!?

IT IS UNBE-COMING OF AN ENGLISH GENTLE-MAN...
...TO DISREGARD ETIQUETTE ...
BA (LEAP)

...AT A TEA PARTY!!
BOSA (WHAM)
SUTO (TMP)
BASH! (WHAP)
M-My ARRRM ...!
GREEN-HILL!!
I WILL SEE TO YOUR INJURY PRES-ENTLY.
HE BIT AWAY QUITE A BIT.
GYUI (TUG)
UURGH!
RAISE HIS ARM.
Y-YES, ALL RIGHT.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON!?
WHAT IS MISTER MICHAELIS DOING HERE!?
OUR TUTOR IS A BUTLER !?
HUNH!?
MISTER MICHAELIS... NO, I SHOULD SAY...
...SEBASTIAN... IS MY BUTLER.
"EPISODES"...? WHAT COULD HE BE TALKING ABOUT?
THE EPISODES WERE TOO ROUGH IN THE END...
HMPH.
...EVEN A DEVIL OF A BUTLER LIKE SEBASTIAN WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN THEIR WHEREABOUTS.
HOWEVER...
AND I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL TO LOOK INTO THE FATE OF DERRICK AND HIS FRIENDS.

HE'S STILL MOVING, DON'T YOU S—
ALREADY DEAD? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
UUH.
MOZO
もぞ
BECAUSE DERRICK WAS ALREADY LONG DEAD.
もぞ
MOZO (SQUIRM)


EEP ...!
ZOO (CHILL)
I DETECT... THE WONDERFUL AROMA... OF TEEEA ...
GUCHA
グチャ
GUCHA
グチャ
HUL... LO...
グッチャ
GUCHA (CRUSH)

I'D LIKE TO HEAR AN EXPLANATION FROM YOU.
CHA (CHAK)
NOW.

PHANTOM-HIVE, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO Y—
CLAYTON!!
HEAD-MASTER!
DON'T CHAL-LENGE CIEL... NO.
DON'T DEFY "EARL PHAN-TOM-HIVE"!
WHA —!?
DASH IT! WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN' ON!?
GIRI (GRIP)
I'VE SEEN TRANS-FORMED HUMANS LIKE DERRICK BEFORE.
TELL ME! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

ZAA
(FWOOSH)

WE...

.....

TO PROTECT?

...ONLY WANTED TO PROTECT...

WE SIMPLY ABIDED BY THAT TEACHING.
IN SHORT ...
...ONE CANNOT AVERT DISASTER WITHOUT STRIKING DOWN THE SOURCE OF IT.
SAINT GEORGE... THE SYMBOL OF OUR COLLEGE...
...IS SAID TO HAVE SLAIN A DRAGON THAT JEOPARDISED THE PEACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS COUNTRY.
AND SO...
.....
...WE DEALT WITH DERRICK—

AND
KILLED
HIM.

HE'S...
...STOPPED BREATHING.
TH-THE BLAME RESTS SQUARELY ON MY SHOULDERS.
GAKU (SHAKE)
GAKU
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE I—
CALM DOWN, GREENHILL!
THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE...
NO.
THIS WAS OUR ONLY OPTION.
INDEED... BUT HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE THE MATTER?
GREENHILL WILL BE ACCUSED OF MURDER IF WE DO NOTHING.
.....I HAVE AN IDEA
WON'T YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?

POST TELEGRAM
HE SAYS HE'LL BE HERE AT FIRST LIGHT TOMORROW.
EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT IN OUR FAVOUR.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW.
WHAT A RELIEF.
TO CTMP
HELLO!
SO YOU'RE THE VISCOUNT OF DRUITT'S NEPHEW!?
SASHA CELIANO

KIRA (SPARKLE)
YOUR SOCIAL STATUS IS NOTHING TO SCOFF AT, BUT YOU HAVE WONDERFULLY HEALTHFUL FEATURES AS WELL!
AND OVER THERE...
...THAT'S MY RESEARCH PARTNER—
HA (WHAT)
P-PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
BIKU (JOLT)
ON THE FACE OF IT, I'M THE DIRECTOR OF KARNSTEIN HOSPITAL!
I AM RIAN STOKER!
"PHOENIX!!"

DOKUN
DOKUN
NO...
IT CAN'T BE—
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
7
AND SO, WE MADE A PACT.
WITH HIM.

NOW ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE HAVE FALLEN INTO PLACE.
I SEE.
THE STUDENT WHO DISAPPEARED, ALONG WITH HIS SOUL—
DERRICK ARDEN.
THE MAN WHO ELUDED A DEVIL'S PURSUIT—
THE HEAD-MASTER.
THE SECRET ORGANIZATION THAT EXPERIMENTS WITH THE REVIVAL OF HUMAN BODIES—
THE AURORA SOCIETY.

EACH OF THEM, MINOR INCIDENTS OF LITTLE CONSE-QUENCE.
THE ONE WHO MADE A LABYRINTH OF THEM...
!?...
HAA (SIGH)
...IS YOU.
!?
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE BOTH DROP OUR SCHOOL ACTS?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HEAD-MASTER!
WE PREFECTS TOOK IT UPON OUR-SELVES TO...
I NEVER SAID THE HEADMAS-TER WAS INVOLVED.

I DID QUITE ENJOY THIS PROFESSION, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW.
ALAAAS!

I WATCHED YOUR MOST DELIGHTFUL STRUGGLES FROM THE GRAND TIER.
ONCE AGAIN, YOU BESTOWED UPON ME THE CHOICEST OF LAUGHTER, SEEEEE...?
HEE! HEE.
IT'S YOU ...!

UNDER-
TAKER!!
To be continued in Black Butler 18

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

7

Saito Torino

Tsuki Sorano

Chiaki Nagaoka

Asakura

*

Takeshi Kuma

*

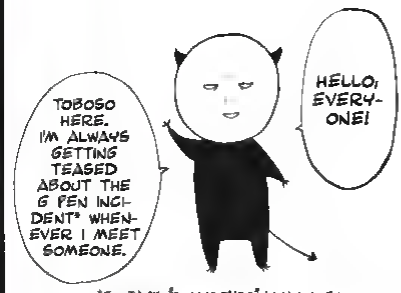
Yana Toboso

Adviser

Rico Murakami

Naoki Miyaji
(Japan Cricket Association)

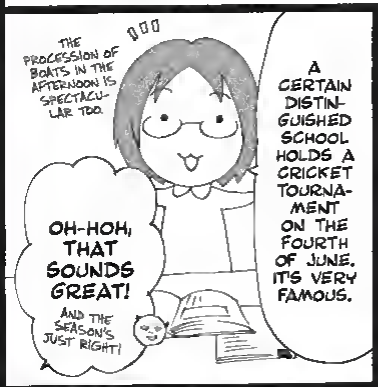
Special thanks to You!



DOWNSTAIRS WITH BLACK BUTLER VII

YANA TOBOSO

*GO BACK "DOWNSTAIRS" IN VOLUME 13


A CERTAIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL HOLDS A CRICKET TOURNAMENT ON THE FOURTH OF JUNE. IT'S VERY FAMOUS.
THE PROCESSION OF BOATS IN THE AFTERNOON IS SPECTACULAR TOO.
OH-HOH, THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
AND THE SEASON'S JUST RIGHT!

DO ENGLISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE SCHOOL FESTIVALS LIKE JAPANESE SCHOOLS DO?
...IS WHAT I ASKED.
TOBOSO
WHEN RIKO MURAKAMI-SAN (WHO ASSISTS US WITH HISTORICAL RESEARCH) WAS GIVING US BACKGROUND ON THE PRESENT ARC...

NNN.
THEN LET'S FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF SPORT THIS "CRICKET" IS!
THAT WAS "CROQUET."
IT'S SIMILAR TO GATEBALL.
BY THE WAY...
...IS "CRICKET" WHAT ALICE AND THE QUEEN OF HEARTS WERE PLAYING IN "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"?
WITH THE FLAMINGOS...

BLUEWER'S "HUNTER IN THE DARK" IS BASED ON THIS STORY
...CONAN DOYLE'S "SPEDEGUE'S DROPPER" AND DOUGLAS ADAMS'S "LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING" WERE THE ONLY ONES I COULD FIND.
I ALSO DID A SEARCH FOR WORKS THAT FEATURE CRICKET, BUT...
K-SAN.
THE ONLY INFO I CAN FIND IN JAPANESE IS A PICTURE BOOK AND INTERNET STUFF...
...AND AN INDIAN MOVIE CALLED "LAGAAN"...
ABOUT FOUR HOURS LONG
WORLD SPORTS
LARGE-TRIM PICTURE BOOK
HOWEVER.
CRICKET IS A MINOR SPORT IN JAPAN; ALTHOUGH PLAYER NUMBERS RANK SECOND IN THE WORLD...
もくもく
MOKU
MOKU (QUIET)
もくもく
MOKU
ANYWAY, WE TRIED TO READ THEM ALL.
AND SO...
THERE'S GOING TO BE A BEGINNER CRICKET WORKSHOP IN TOKYO.
LET'S GIVE IT A GO OURSELVES FIRST INSTEAD OF JUST INTERVIEWING PEOPLE!
OOOH, LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO LEARNING A SPORT SOLELY BY READING ABOUT IT, ESPECIALLY WHEN NO ONE'S EVER ACTUALLY SEEN IT PLAYED.
UH, RIGHT... I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!!!
NEITHER STORY HAD DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RULES. (LAUGH)
A SCHOOL IN TOKYO
A FEW DAYS LATER

Let's Play!
INSTRUCTOR
WE'LL IGNORE THE DETAILS FOR NOW.
THE MAIN THING TO LEARN IS THAT YOU "DEFEND THE WICKET AND RUN WHEN YOU HIT THE BALL"!
YE——S!
TWO SUSPICIOUS ADULTS IN A CROWD OF CHILDREN
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY! HAVE YOU ALL PAIRED UP?
THE INSTRUCTOR
WE ARE SO OUT OF PLACE HERE...
FIVE GO-ROUNDS
WAH!
AH!
RUUUN!!
RUN, RUN, RUN!
ONE GO-ROUND
RUN, RUN!
RUN!
HYULIN (SHOOM)
POKO (WHACK)
WAH THE BALL'S GOING THAT WAY!
YOU HIT IT!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE RULE PARTICULARS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JAPAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION.
I JUST WANTED EVERYONE TO EXPERIENCE PLAYING CRICKET...
YOU ACTUALLY DON'T NEED TO RUN WHEN YOU'VE SCORED A FOUR OR A SIX.
HOW DARE YOU
I'LL SEND YOU TO HELL IN THE DIRT!
THESE TWO DON'T GET MUCH EXERCISE.
I DON'T THINK CIEL CAN PLAY THIS SPORT...
HAAA (PANT)
ZEEE (WHEEZE)
FUUUUN (PHOOOM)
A MONTH LATER

SIGN: JR SANO STATION
SANO CITY IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE!
WHOO-HOO!
JUST FREED FROM WORK HELL
I HAD HER COME WITH US, SINCE SHE'S FROM TOCHIGI.
CHIEF H
GIFT
WE'RE HERE!
HOME TURF OF THE JAPAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION.
HE GRACIOUSLY TAUGHT US ALL KINDS OF THINGS, LIKE THE DETAILED RULES OF CRICKET AND THE PLAYING STYLES OF THE PROS.
THIS IS A NEW RULE THAT DIDN'T EXIST IN THE 19TH CENTURY.
OHH
AH
HE POSSESSES A MOE-SPEC OF HAVING A BRITISH MOTHER AND A JAPANESE FATHER!
MIYAJI-SAN, CEO OF THE J.C.A., WHO SUPERVISED THIS ARC
MY GRANDMOTHER ALMOST SENT ME AWAY TO A BRITISH PUBLIC SCHOOL.
(D)EVIL
IS THERE A DIRTY WAY TO WIN A MATCH?
GEH HEH HEH.
YANA-SAN, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS UNGENTLEMANLY!!
H
EH!?
M
I SEE!
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IN CRICKET IS THE GENTLEMANLY SPIRIT.
SO TELL ME...

OUR QUESTIONS WERE ALL ABSURD...BUT I'M GRATEFUL TO MIYAJI-SAN FOR ANSWERING EACH AND EVERY ONE WITHOUT GETTING OFFENDED.

HE GAVE US A BALL AS RESEARCH MATERIAL

A PHOTO OF THE BALL IS INCLUDED IN THE TABLE OF CONTENTS OF VOLUME 6

WHEN AUSTRALIA PLAYED ENGLAND IN 1932, THE ENGLISH TEAM USED HISTORICALLY DIRTY TACTICS, AND SEVERAL LAWS OF CRICKET WERE REVISED AS A RESULT. (LAUGHS)

BODY LINE

EVEN AVAILABLE ON DVD

GIEL'S "OVER-THE-EDGE TACTICS" ARE BASED ON THIS TRICK. NOW IT'S AGAINST THE RULES!

MIYAJI-SAN THEN TOLD US ABOUT THE VARIOUS LOOPHOLES IN THE RULES AND THE DIRTY PLAYS THROUGH-OUT HISTORY! (LAUGHS)

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME UP WITH ALL THOSE DIRTY PLAYS...

MM... MMM...

THESE BACKHANDED PLAYS HAVE NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME...

HOW ABOUT THIS TRICK?

WELL, WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?

DOES THIS SCHEME SEEM PLAU-SIBLE?

LET'S HAVE SOME BEFORE WE LEAVE.

GREAT!

SANO IS FAMOUS FOR SANO RAMEN!

6:30 P.M.

AND AFTER WE WERE FINISHED—

THANK YOU SO MUCH

SIGN: CLOSED

THIRD PLACE

SIGN: CLOSED

SECOND PLACE

SIGN: CLOSED

FIRST PLACE

A PASSERBY CAME TO OUR RESCUE.
HALF AN HOUR LATER
WE GOT LOST LOOKING FOR RAMEN!
WAAAH!
YOU'VE BEEN WANDERING ABOUT FOR A WHILE NOW. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF COMING AFTER US EVEN HE WAS WORRIED.
NICE GUY
THREE LOST ADULTS IN SEARCH OF RAMEN
EVEN THE OUTSIDE LIGHTS ARE BEING TURNED OFF!
GULU
GULU(GURGLE)
IT'S DARK! AND THERE'S NO ONE AROUND!
D-DO THE LOCALS EAT DINNER REALLY EARLY!?
IT'S ONLY SEVEN O'CLOCK!
I'M STARVING!
SO WE WENT ON OUR FIRST BLACK BUTLER EXPEDITION DURING THE CRICKET ARC—
IT'S BECOME A SEPARATE ARC FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ARC
PLUMP (CHIRICHI)
THE PEOPLE OF SANO WERE ALL VERY NICE.
THANK YOU!
I LOVE TOFU!
THIS IS ON THE HOUSE, SO HELP YOURSELF
THE RAMEN WAS DELICIOUS!!!
DO YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE TOFU?
WOW! THANK YOU
WE FINALLY HAD OUR RAMEN AT A CAFÉ IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
CHAPTER 80 WORK HELL
MORNING!
...?
AAAAH...
TWIST YOU'RE HIP MORE!
MORE!
PASHA
PRETEND YOU'RE A STAR PLAYER!
PASHA
PASHA (THWAP)
DECIDING ON WHAT THE BIG MOVE SHOULD LOOK LIKE.
PURU (TREMBLE)
PURU
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
H
I'D BE THRILLED IF YOU ALL GET A KICK OUT OF READING THIS VOLUME!
THE FINISHING CHIEF ME

Translation Notes

Inside Front and Back Covers

Segawa Express

The name of the despatch service is a parody of an actual Japanese parcel delivery service called Sagawa Express. The company's delivery people also wear striped shirts.

Summer gift

Ochuugen in Japanese, summer gifts, or Obon festival gifts, are given to express gratitude to the recipient, often work colleagues. The Obon festival is a Japanese national holiday held over three days every summer in thanks and remembrance of ancestors.

Page 50

Leg side vs. off side

Depending on whether the batsman is right- or left-handed, leg side, or on side, is the side of the cricket field to the rear of the batsman as he receives the ball. Off side is the side to which the batsman faces when receiving the ball.

Page 97

Eton Mess

This dessert takes its name from arguably the most famous English public school, Eton College, where it is served during the school's annual summer cricket match against Harrow School. The traditional English summer treat consists of strawberries, cream, and meringue.

Page 108

Fellows' Eyot

Fellows' Eyot is a field that runs along the River Thames and is a traditional spot from which to view the Procession of Boats at the famed Eton College.

Page 168

Fourth of June

Eton College has a huge gala on the Fourth of June, which includes the Procession of Boats. Like Weston, the school is opened to the students' family and friends during the celebrations.

Page 172

Gateball

A sport invented in Hokkaido, Japan in 1942, gateball is played in teams with mallets, much like croquet.

Page 176

Sano ramen

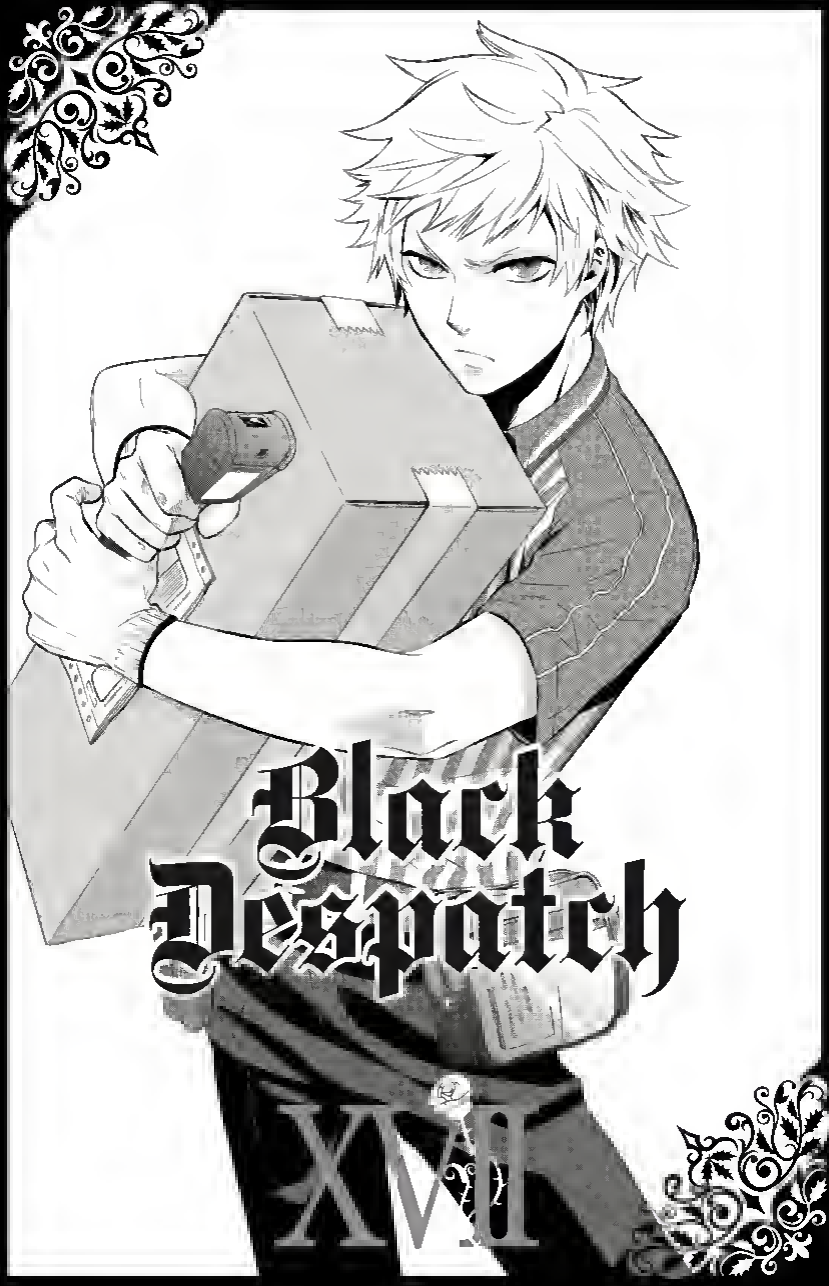
A unique fact about the ramen from Sano is that its noodles are prepared with green bamboo stalks instead of the standard rolling pins.

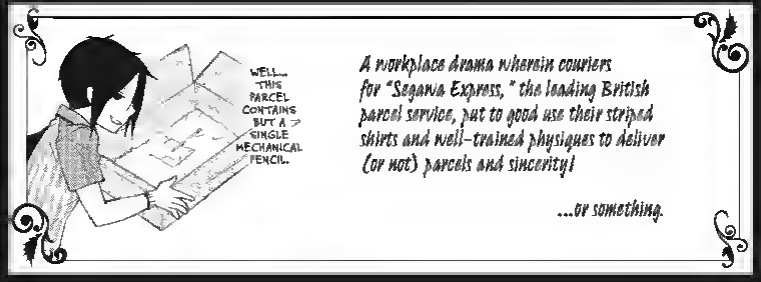
Yana Toboso

Author's note

Even if I were able to tell past me drawing Volume 1 that "***Black Butler*** will someday turn into a school manga," or "***Black Butler*** will someday turn into a cricket manga," or "***Black Butler*** will someday be made into a live-action movie," I'm pretty sure that past me will probably retort with "Nonsense!"

And that's the way with Volume 17.


Black
Despatch
XVII



A workplace drama wherein couriers for "Segawa Express," the leading British parcel service, put to good use their striped shirts and well-trained physiques to deliver (or not) parcels and sincerity!

...or something.

BLACK BUTLER ⑰

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

KUROSHITSUJI Vol. 17 ©2013 Yana Toboso/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2013 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2014 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press eBook Edition: July 2014

eBook ISBN: 978-0-316-29747-9

App ISBN: 978-0-316-29759-2